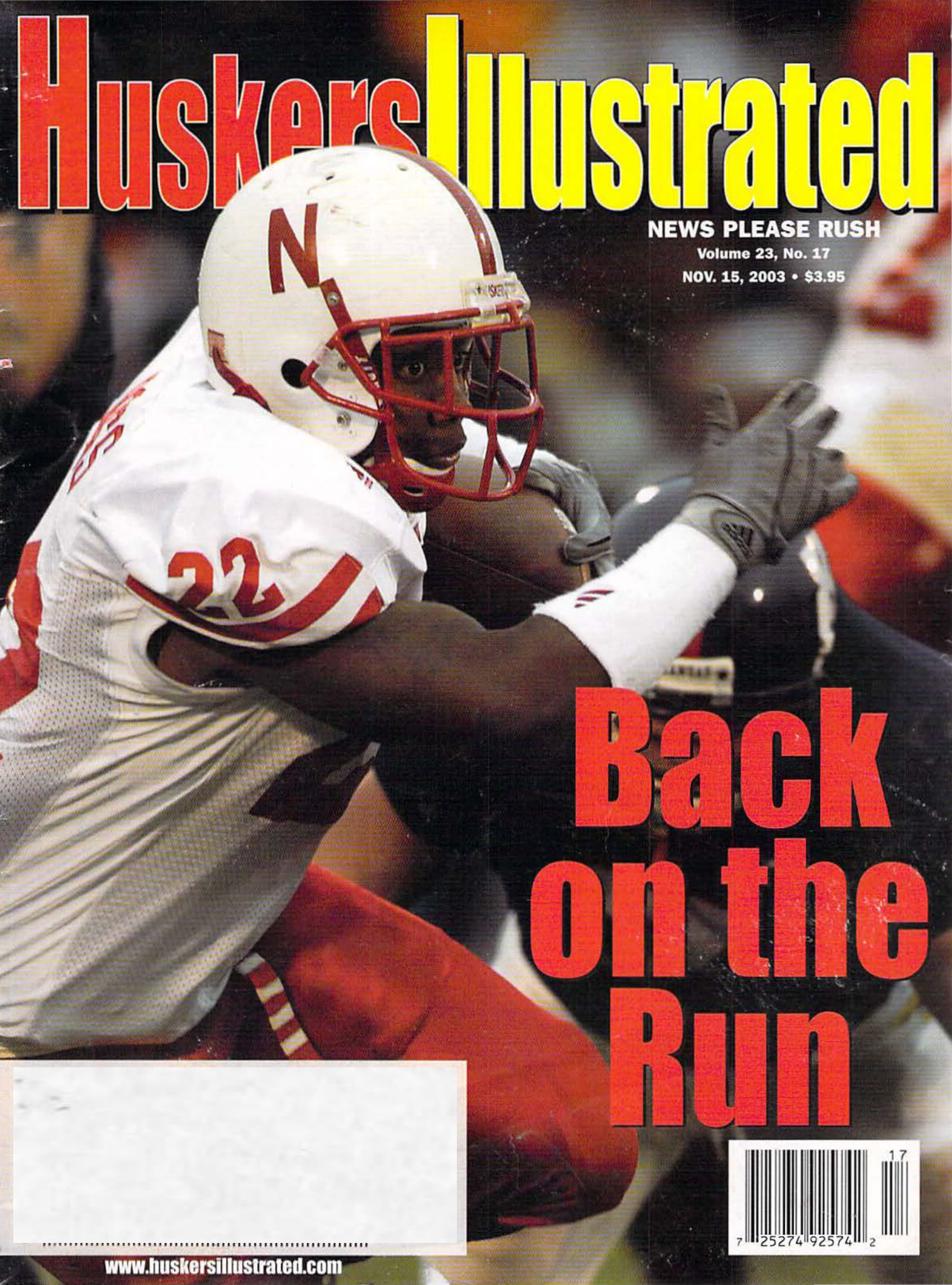


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Two Wins Away

*Huskers rebound from Texas downer,
prepare for showdown with K-State*



**Brian
HILL**

THE PRIZE for the last team standing in this crazy Big 12 North Division race is getting to play Oklahoma Dec. 6 in Kansas City.

The odds would be against Nebraska, or any other team for that matter, in a meeting with the mighty Sooners. (Yes, you saw that score correctly: Oklahoma 77, Texas A&M 0.)

With Missouri losing at Colorado, Nebraska suddenly controls its own destiny and can win the North outright by defeating Kansas State in Lincoln and Colorado in Boulder in its final two regular-season games.

That's certainly no easy chore, but who thought going in that the Huskers would be 8-2 at this point in the season?

The latest victory was, as most have been, a struggle early and at least a little bit ugly. But hey, a 21-point win on the road is nothing to sneeze at, especially coming on the heels of the 31-7 whipping a week earlier at Texas. The Longhorns came back to pound Oklahoma State 55-16, so they obviously are better than they had played earlier in the season.

The Huskers had three more interceptions among four forced turnovers to keep up their nation-leading pace in interceptions (now 24) and takeaways (39). Free safety Josh Bullocks had his usual interception and now has nine for the season, and twin brother Daniel got into the act, as well as Jerrell Pippens. Demorrio Williams had the fumble

recovery to go along with 12 tackles and two sacks.

"The turnovers that we created were just guys making some big plays," defensive coordinator Bo Pelini said. "The turnovers were very timely, and we were fortunate for those. KU has put up a lot of points on other teams, and we feel that we did a good job holding them to three points today."

You can read more about the 24-3 triumph over Kansas in this edition of *Huskers Illustrated*. We also look ahead to this week's showdown with Kansas State. Tackle Dan Vili Waldrop and Nebraska's other seniors, who will be making their final Memorial Stadium appearance, are the subjects of our feature story. Another member of the senior class, cornerback Terrell Butler, is the subject of our player profile.

This week's installment of "Where Are They Now" features Lawrence Pete, an all-conference middle guard, who went on to a successful career in the NFL before retiring to spend more time with his family.

As a senior in 1988, he helped the Huskers win the Big Eight and a berth in the Orange Bowl.

The odds were certainly long against the 2003 Huskers even being in a position to represent their division in the Big 12 Championship.

Early success, a highly ranked defense and a top-10 spot in the polls changed perceptions along the way, but hoping for the moon this soon after last season's 7-7 downer really wasn't realistic.

The prediction here was 9-4, not figuring in the Big 12 Championship game.

Regardless of the outcome, getting there would be quite an accomplishment. ■



ON THE COVER

Sophomore I-back Cory Ross came off the bench to rush for 108 yards in the second half. Photo by Scott Bruhn.

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Huskers Illustrated

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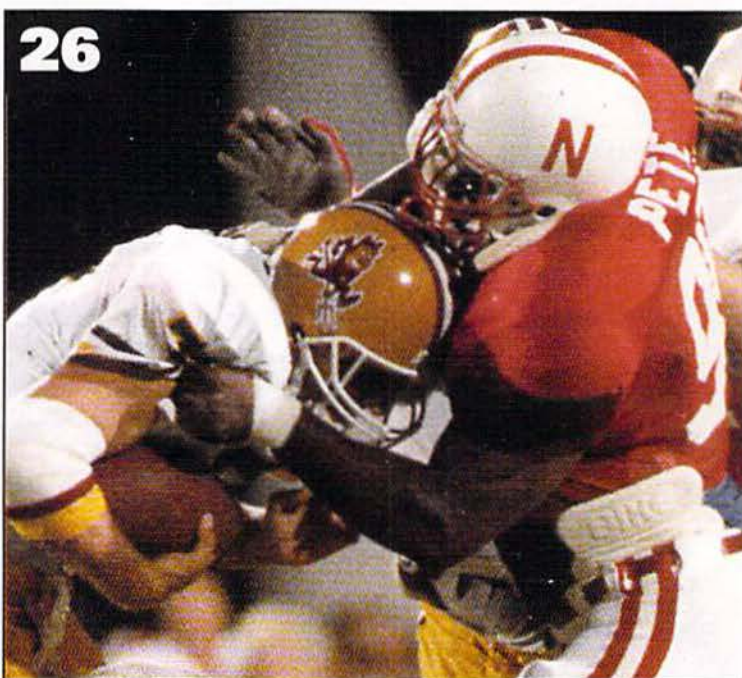
Tackle Dan Vili Waldrop (above), one of 33 Nebraska seniors, might do something special when he makes his final Tunnel Walk. *By Mike Babcock*

NEXT ISSUE

The Kansas State review/Colorado preview edition will be mailed Nov. 17. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

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Addressing Issues

Barry Collier was among more than 300 NCAA Division I men's basketball coaches who met in suburban Chicago in mid-October to discuss the ethics of their profession.

The National Association of Basketball Coaches organized the emergency meeting to address issues raised as a result of problems at a handful of schools, including Baylor and Iowa State.

Collier is member of the association's board of directors.

The meeting was a first step in "raising a standard, re-establishing the way things ought to be," he said the next day. Those things include "doing the right thing, being trustworthy and honest with everyone. We're going to establish those things on a more formal basis with our staffs and teams."

"Where we've always believed in that and had codes of conduct, we're now going to put that down on paper and share it with each other, share ideas in this arena. We have been embarrassed by the behavior of some of our fellow coaches, albeit that's only 2 percent of the number of coaches."

There are 327 Division I coaches, he said. "We're only talking about a very small number."

Even so, "it's something that we all wear as a basketball coach," he said.

"Anything that happens, good or bad, is going to affect or be painted on all of us. We recognize that, and we accept the responsibility to do something about it. The cynics would say, 'Well, you did nothing yesterday.' But the fact of the matter is that our choice was to do nothing."

Instead, the coaches convened at Chicago's Hyatt Regency O'Hare, with NCAA President Miles Brand in atten-



Nebraska's Barry Collier is a member of the National Association of Basketball Coaches board of directors.

dance, "in itself an historic thing," said Collier. "That's never been the case, where we've had all the coaches (together) and the NCAA president has come and participated."

Brand "applauded us for taking this step in trying to do something about our game and the ethics involved. It's also been noted by a number of people

that we're in a new age and that there's much more scrutiny. It's not just what's happening with the team on the court but off the court."

And the same is true for coaches on and off the court, Collier said. "That's the way it is. We accept that, and we want to lead from that position rather than avoid this subject."

The problems in the Big 12, including scandals that cost Iowa State Coach Larry Eustachy and Baylor Coach Dave Bliss their jobs, "were among those noted during the day," said Collier. "But this is a larger issue of honesty, of simply doing what is right for the players, for the game, for our university, for society for that matter. It's something we take very seriously. Everyone on this earth knows they're responsible for their own actions. But as a group, we'd certainly like to say we expect a high standard."

Texas Tech's Bob Knight was among the few coaches who did not attend the mandatory meeting. Those who didn't attend were to have their access to Final Four tickets revoked.

"If anybody could afford not to be here, it's Bobby Knight," former Georgetown Coach John Thompson told the Associated Press. "He's not someone who's not concerned about this game. Just because he was not here does not mean that he will be inactive for the cause."

Thompson was among those who spoke at the three-hour-plus meeting. Others included Oklahoma Coach Kelvin Sampson, the president of the NABC.

"We had a very, very good meeting, with good input," Collier said.

The coaches plan to re-convene at the Final Four in San Antonio. ■

COLLIER SAYS HUSKERS COULDN'T GET GOING WITHOUT MUHLEISEN

Jake Muhleisen's importance to the Nebraska men's basketball team can't be measured only with statistics. The junior from Lincoln, Neb., is a leader and is again the team captain.

"I think we missed Jake tremendously last year," Coach Barry Collier said at the Big 12 Conference Media Day at Dallas in late October. "When he got to the point of getting healthy in the late spring and began working out all through the summer, we began to see the leadership impact he has."

Muhleisen, of course, missed the Big 12 season a year ago



J. Muhleisen

because of a fractured hip socket. "Losing him really took away some of the spirit of our team," said Collier. "It's not supposed to be that way, but the fact that he's such a great kid, a great teammate and a dang good basketball player takes its place."

"He's well accepted by his teammates. They know what he's trying to do is put our team in the best light and help our team be successful. A year ago, we were going along there and then we lose Jake and it's like the wheel's still turning, but the hamster's dead. We just couldn't get going."

His fourth team will be better able to deal with such unexpected adversity. "Given we've got a deeper bench, we should be far better off if that scenario occurs," Collier said. ■

LOW EXPECTATIONS

Despite the optimism of Barry Collier and Connie Yori, the Nebraska men and women were both picked to finish 11th in the Big 12 in a vote of conference coaches. Missouri was picked as the favorite in the men's race, while Texas was the coaches' pick to repeat in the women's race.

The men's poll (points):

1. Missouri (114)
2. Texas (108)
3. Kansas (106)
4. Oklahoma (92)
5. Oklahoma State (81)
6. Colorado (71)
7. Texas Tech (64)
8. Kansas State (48)
9. Texas A&M (41)
10. Iowa State (33)
11. Nebraska (23)
12. Baylor (11)

Missouri received eight first-place votes, Texas three and Kansas one. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own team. Points were awarded 11 for first, 10 for second, etc.

Coaches' pre-season all-conference team:

- *G — Andre Emmett, Texas Tech, 6-5, Sr.
G — Ricky Paulding, Missouri, 6-5, Sr.
C — Arthur Johnson, Missouri, 6-9, Sr.
C — James Thomas, Texas, 6-8, Sr.
F — Wayne Simien, Kansas, 6-9, Jr.
*Pre-season Player of the Year

The women's poll (points):

1. Texas (120)
2. Kansas State (111)
3. Texas Tech (99)
4. Oklahoma (87)
5. Colorado (81)
6. Baylor (72)
7. Missouri (55)
8. Iowa State (53)
9. Kansas (40)
10. Oklahoma State (35)
11. Nebraska (20)
12. Texas A&M (19)

Texas received 10 first-place votes and Kansas State two.

Coaches' pre-season all-conference team:

- G — Jia Perkins, Texas Tech, 5-8, Sr.
*F/C — Nicole Ohlde, Kansas State, 6-4, Sr.
F — Kendra Wecker, Kansas State, 5-11, Jr.
F — Stacy Stephens, Texas, 6-1, Sr.
F — Heather Schreiber, Texas, 6-2, Jr.
*Pre-season Player of the Year

STILL THE BEST

Despite some coaching changes, including Bill Self's stepping in at Kansas for the departed Roy Williams, and the loss of key players such as early-out T.J. Ford from Texas, the Big 12 remains one of the nation's toughest conferences.

"It's different, but I think it's still very, very good," Collier says of the men's side. "It's probably somewhat arguable but in many people's opinion, and certainly in mine, the Big 12 is the best league in the country. I think that's going to be the same." ■

Quick Hits

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?



C. Richardson

NO PASSING FANCY

Coach Barry Collier told those who made the trip to Dallas that the addition of point guards Marcus Neal and Charles Richardson has had a significant impact on the team.

"Now you've got two very good passers in your offense and you're not dealing out from one point," he said. "You can still make plays, decisions, passes and so forth from another spot on the floor. That's a big plus. From a defensive end, I think that being able to have some quickness is good."



Marcus Neal

PATIENT APPROACH

The desire to see progress in the program has to be tempered by patience. "What we need to do is build it one brick at a time, day by day and get this work ethic going," Collier said.

"We've got to let the players develop into what they can and should evolve into, as opposed to putting pressure on them to turn around quickly or become something they're not. That's the kind of thing where you have to have patience as a teacher and let that happen."

Though it wasn't as creative as the hamster image, Collier used another comparison to make his point. "You've got your foot through the floor on the gas pedal, but there is a balance," he said.

Guard Jake Muhleisen sounded like Collier, echoing his coach's comments on the need for patience. "We are just trying to take it one day at a time," he said. "Our goal is to improve every day."

The Cornhuskers open the season against Fairleigh Dickinson at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Nov. 22. "Our goal is to win that first game and after that, win the next game," said Muhleisen.

"So we're looking forward into the future. We're just looking at one day at a time."

STILL LEARNING

Despite being sidelined with the injury, Muhleisen continued to learn last season, as an observer from the bench. "I learned a lot about the preparation aspect of it, being able to come to the games and always focus on the task at hand, and then when you're in the game, execute the game plan," he says.

"There were times that I saw lapses on both teams, if they had done better here or there, they would have scored a lot more points and won the game by more."

He "learned a lot just by watching and observing," he says.

SIMILAR PROBLEMS



Connie Yori

At the Big 12 Conference Media Day for women's teams, also in Dallas, Husker Coach Connie Yori also talked about how the loss of two players impacted her team. Katie Morse and Keasha Cannon are back and "will provide many things, including scoring opportunities," said Yori.

In addition, returning players Alexa Johnson, Margaret Richards and Jina Johansen "gained a lot of experience by going through that last year," Yori said. "We have five returners that have experience for us, and that alone is going to be a factor. In addition, we have six new freshmen that are all doing some really nice things in practice. It'll be truly nice to look down the bench and sub."

Yori didn't really have the luxury of substituting last season.

CLOSE TO 100 PERCENT

Keasha Cannon, the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year in 2002, missed last season because of a pregnancy and probably wasn't 100 percent in late October.

But she is "getting close," Yori said. "We expect big things from her. She's obviously conditioning and continues to get back to her old level. She's had some nagging injuries."

The 5-foot-10 senior guard was "probably 90 percent of the player she was two years ago," said Yori, whose second Nebraska team opens at home against Wofford on Nov. 21.

AS BAD AS IT GETS

The Huskers finished 8-20 overall and 1-15 in the Big 12 in Yori's first season. "It was not an easy year, no question about that," Yori said. "It was the hardest year of my life."

"As coaches we have the responsibility to come to practice every day positive and try to make our team better, improve and help our kids understand what it is we're trying to establish. I think we did that. We made a lot of changes. We changed attitudes. To a certain degree, we changed work habits."

Richards agreed. "Losing is hard, but I think it has brought us more together," the 5-9 senior from Louisville, Ky., said. "This year I think we'll be a lot closer."

Richards received her degree in August but returned. "I love basketball and I think it's a great opportunity," she said. "I also didn't want to go out with last season."

"I wanted to come back, play hard and hopefully have a better season." ■

Now He's Ready

Serious knee injury pushes former walk-on Cook toward coaching side



Mike Babcock

FIRST WAS THE MATTER of respect. Kelly Cook struggled with it a year ago.

"I didn't want to face that role yet," he says. Last season, he hung around with his former Nebraska teammates "as if I was still a player. This year, I know I want to be a coach."

Cook wouldn't have said that three years ago. He was a walk-on wide receiver from Omaha Burke High, whose only concern as it related to football was climbing the depth chart.

He was a management major and had considered becoming a sports agent, but certainly not a coach. His sister's boyfriend, now fiancé, told him he should be a coach. But he resisted.

"I just didn't think I could do it," he says.

That changed because of a knee injury Cook suffered during pre-season practice a year ago. Four days before the opening game against Arizona State, he underwent surgery to repair the knee. The patellar tendon had torn and the bursa sac had ruptured, requiring a lengthy rehabilitation.

Cook wouldn't have been able to return until this season, as a senior, and he might not have been able to return at all. What he heard from the doctors was "gloom and doom," he says.

Plus, a similar injury had ended the career of former Cornhusker Rob Blomeier.

"Rob kind of set an example for me," says Cook. "I figured if he didn't come back, it was the real deal. I probably wouldn't be able to come back either."

So when receivers coach Ron Brown suggested he might become an undergraduate assistant, Cook's attitude toward coaching began to change. He was hesitant at first. But it was a way to remain involved with football, and as it turned out, it enabled him to get a scholarship.

He hadn't earned a scholarship as a player, so when he was offered one to work as an undergraduate coach, "it was real flattering," he says. "I guess they felt I had a good feel for the game."

Now he is planning on a career in coaching at the college level. He even postponed graduation from May to December in order to remain as an undergraduate assistant. Programs are allowed only two graduate assistants, and Dan McLaughlin and Carl Pelini hold those positions.

M.J. Flaum, an offensive lineman from Westminster, Colo., plagued by injuries throughout his career, is in his first season as an undergraduate assistant. He would have been a junior.

Undergraduate assistants are expected to be at practice and games, but "I try to put in as many hours as possible so I can learn," Cook says. "This year, especially, I go in on Sundays, sometimes eight or nine hours, and go in mornings when I can, when I don't have class."

He is enrolled in 12 credit hours in order to be a full-time student.

He works with running backs coach Tim Albin, even sounds like Albin with his staccato remarks and undisguised enthusiasm. Albin, a graduate assistant a year ago, "gives me a lot of leeway," he says.

Sometimes during practice, Albin will divide the I-backs and fullbacks and allow Cook to work with one group or the other on drills. "He goes, 'You know what to do,'" says Cook.

On game day, Cook has a headset and is responsible for recording Nebraska's offensive plays, down and distance and the gain or loss on each one. At halftime, the coaches can look at the charts to get an idea of what worked and what didn't and adjust their game plan accordingly.

Last season during games, Cook drew up cards indicating defensive alignments and techniques against Nebraska's plays, a low-tech version of the photographs NFL teams use.

Prior to the Kansas game, the Cornhuskers hadn't used the cards because of the new system of offensive coordinator Barney Cotton. But they were going to try them again, Cook says, so that Cotton, Solich and quarterback Jammal Lord "can get a visual feel for what the defense is doing."

Maintaining a proper distance from his former teammates was difficult last season. "I don't know exactly how one does it," Cook says. "I don't think 'mature' is the word because I already think of myself as being mature. But it's hard. I think actions speak louder than words. When they come up to watch film, I'm there. They see I'm working a lot of hours behind the scenes, trying to learn."

Besides, "most coaches started at some point as young coaches."

Though the knee injury closed the door on his playing career, it opened the door on coaching. "I know getting a grad assistant's spot is tough," says Cook, who plans to attend the coaches' convention at Orlando, Fla., in January. "Hopefully, people will respect me. Being from Nebraska will help." ■



Kelly Cook practiced at quarterback during the 2000 season.

Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for more than 20 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.

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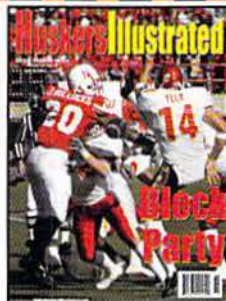
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So Many Scenarios

Big 12 North Division race likely to go down to final week



Curt McKEEVER

I'LL GIVE YOU that they looked like a ranch hand caught in a middle of a Texas cattle stampede.

But if you're one of the Big Red faithful left blue in the face by Nebraska's 31-7 loss to the Longhorns, relax and take a deep breath. And remember how at this point a year ago the Huskers were eliminated from the Big 12 North Division race.

Feeling better yet? You should, because there's a lot of folks who gave the Huskers no shot to still be in the hunt with two games left in the regular season.

"It was just our day," said Texas Coach Mack Brown, sounding bewildered that his team could dominate NU like it did. "Nebraska's got a great team and, in fact, I hope we're not playing at the same time as the Nebraska-Kansas State game, because we played both of those teams, and they're both great. That'll be a super game. If I can't get to see it on TV, I'm going to tape it."

Brown was sugar-coating a bit.

Nebraska came away from the loss dazed and had some offensive issues magnified. But Brown's comments weren't all fluff. As they have been all season, the Huskers are a team who draw their strength from their defense and another field-position weapon in punter Kyle Larson.

Without a quick-strike style of offense, they do not thrive when down by more than a score.

"When they get behind, it's harder for them because they're not a dropback team," Brown said. "It put more pressure on their scheme and more pressure on their offensive linemen. But they're really, really good, and I wouldn't want to play them again."

Brown won't have to worry about that for awhile. The Longhorns aren't going to be the South's representative in the Big 12 championship.

At least Nebraska still has that hope in the North.

To reach the Dec. 6 contest in Kansas City, Mo., the Huskers need to beat Kansas State for the 18th straight time in Lincoln. Then, they'll probably have to win at Boulder, Colo., where they're 17-3-1 in their last 21 trips.

After the Texas game, Frank Solich had no interest in Nebraska's history against the Wildcats and Buffaloes.

"In order for us to challenge for anything, we need to really improve," he said.

Against the Longhorns, the Huskers looked mostly helpless trying to stop the run and establish their own ground game. They had bad snaps on punts and field goals and, Solich noted, too many penalties and execution breakdowns.

"We need to get back to making sure that we just get to the basics and get our football team moving in the right direction again," Solich said. "And then if we play well

enough, we'll have a chance. But we'll need to get much better than what we were."

Missouri also enters the final three weeks of the season in contention for the Big 12 North. But the Tiger probably would have to win it outright in order to advance to the championship game.

If Nebraska, Kansas State and Missouri all ended up 5-3 in the league, the first tie-breaker would be to compare the teams' records against each other. They'd all be 1-1. The next tie-breaker is divisional record, and under that scenario Kansas State would be declared the champ based on a 4-1 mark compared to Nebraska and Missouri being 3-2. If the Tigers finish in a two-team tie for first, they hold the head-to-head tie-breaker over the Huskers and would have to have the same thing occur if they're on top with K-State.

So many scenarios.

"I think it's going to be a great finish," Iowa State's Dan McCarney said. "There's just no way to tell right now (how it's going to end up)."

At least Kansas State was feeling good about itself.

The Wildcats responded from four-point road losses to Texas and Oklahoma State by producing three straight home blowouts before tuning up for Nebraska at Iowa State.

"It's safe to say that K-State is back," linebacker Josh Buhl said before the Wildcats beat Baylor 38-10 on Nov. 1. "We have our confidence back, we have our motivation back, and we understand the opportunities that we have."

Missouri coach Gary Pinkel sounded just as excited.

A year ago, the Tigers went to Kansas State with a 5-6 record, needing to win to extend their season. They lost 38-0. A few weeks ago, Mizzou needed to beat Texas Tech in order to become bowl eligible and, more importantly, stay in the Big 12 North race. The Tigers won in a rout.

"It was the same (pressure) situation," Pinkel said. "Last year, when that happened, we fell apart. This year, I think it enhanced our performance. If you're a competitor, it doesn't get any better than this. This is fun."

"You want to always be in position in November to have your influence on the divisional race. This is what it's all about. Hopefully, it's such a motivator that it helps you play at a higher level."

Which is exactly how the division champion will have to play if it hopes to have a chance to knock off Oklahoma in the championship game.

But we'll have to put that topic on the shelf for at a couple more weeks. There's still a pretty hefty mess to sort through in the North. ■



Frank Solich says the Huskers must "really improve" to challenge.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.

Dirty Work

Linebacker Hollowell doesn't mind if some of the jobs he has are less than glamorous



Terry DOUGLASS

WHEN TALK TURNS to Nebraska's linebacker corps, T.J. Hollowell's name usually isn't the first to be mentioned.

While weakside linebacker Demorrio Williams has been the team's sack master and middle linebacker Barrett Ruud racks up tackles at a dizzying pace, Hollowell seems to quietly go about his business. As the Cornhuskers' "Buck" or strongside linebacker, Hollowell is the man often asked to do the dirty work for the Blackshirt defense.

"Sometimes, we ask him to do things where he isn't quite in position to get all the glory, because some of the jobs he has are less than glamorous," Nebraska first-year defensive coordinator Bo Pelini said. "But he's been consistent all year, does his job play after play and has come a long way. I think you'll continue to see that from him."

To the casual fan, it would seem that Hollowell is lined up in roughly the same area and should have just as much of an opportunity to be in on plays as Ruud and Williams. However, that's not the case in Pelini's scheme.

"Sometimes, where we line him up, he's not always in the best position to make plays," Pelini said. "He's made a lot of plays, but it's just the nature of the system. He's going to have his opportunities, but you're not going to have quite as many opportunities where he plays as somebody else does. That's more of an Xs and Os deal."

Williams said that unlike he and Ruud, Hollowell has additional responsibilities besides just chasing after the football.

"A lot of time, he's a guy that might have to (turn the play in) to other linebackers, and then other times he might have the responsibility of dropping or covering man-to-man on someone," Williams said. "A lot of times, Barrett and I are in situations where we can just be free and break to the ball when it happens, but T.J. is a guy who has to stay locked up on his man a lot."

Williams said he and his teammates definitely appreciate what Hollowell does to make the defense work properly.

"You don't have a choice but to respect a guy like that," Williams said. "He's a person that does his job. It could be easy for him to want to do another person's job, but instead, he sticks to the job and does whatever he's got to do to help his teammates out."

Hollowell's senior season is shaping up to be his most productive. He's destined to break his personal season record of 60 tackles set last year while starting just two of 14 games.

If playing the Buck linebacker spot makes Hollowell a bit of an afterthought, that's OK with him. He's just happy to be starting and contributing.

Besides, it's not like Hollowell doesn't get a chance to shine. The 6-foot, 230-pounder from Copperas Cove, Texas, was the third leading tackler after nine games with 51 stops, including five tackles for loss, one interception and seven pass breakups.

"I do what I'm told to do, and I'm happy with that," Hollowell said. "I do what I do well, so I have no problems with my position and what I do for this team."

Hollowell's unselfishness is typical of what can be found on the defensive side of the ball at Nebraska. Pelini appears to have his troops sold on the idea that playing good defense is a total team effort.

"Me being able to make big plays is just a reflection on our whole defense and how it works," Hollowell said. "I wouldn't be able to make the plays that I do without the other 10 guys out there on the field."

"That's the main thing with this defense. Everybody is just taking care of their responsibilities, and if it comes to where the play comes your way and you can make the play, then you do it."

So what has made this year's edition of the Blackshirts so selfless?

"Mainly, it's the coaches," Hollowell said. "They teach us how to take care of our own responsibilities and trust each other. When you do that, stats and fame and everything else that comes with it is spread out."

"We've learned to be unselfish, disciplined and just love being out there with each other."

With that in mind, Hollowell said he certainly didn't mind switching from the weakside linebacker spot to Buck. Besides allowing the Huskers to put their best three linebackers on the field at the same time, it also meant more playing time for Hollowell. Last year, he and Williams shared time at the weakside position.

Hollowell said the transition was fairly easy.

"I know football and when you know football, it's not hard to adjust," Hollowell said. "We got a chance to learn the new stuff during the spring, so I came into the season pretty much knowing most of what coach Pelini was going to throw at us."

Hollowell said that linebackers coach Jimmy Williams tells him all the time that the trio of linebackers can stack up with any group in the nation. Hollowell doesn't mean to sound cocky, but he can't say that he disagrees.

"Coach Williams really believes that, and we really believe that," Hollowell said. "We really do feel like we have just as much ability as any group of linebackers in the country."

As a unit, Hollowell said he thinks Nebraska's linebackers are improving all the time. Pelini notes the same can be said for Hollowell, who has impressed the former Green Bay Packers' linebacker coach from day one.

"I just know that since I've had him here, I've seen a tremendous amount of improvement," Pelini said. "I don't really know where he was, coming into that time, but he's a good athlete. He's smart and tough. I think he's a good all-around linebacker, and I think he's a heck of a football player."

There's certainly nothing dirty about praise like that. ■



Senior T.J. Hollowell is Nebraska's third leading tackler.

Terry Douglass is the sports editor of the Grand Island Independent. He can be reached at tdbdouglass@earthlink.net.

Support Group

**Cornerback
Butler says
his friends
kept him at
Nebraska**

By Mike Babcock

If not for T.J. Hollowell and some of his other teammates, Terrell Butler might not have finished his career at Nebraska. At the end of his sophomore season, Butler considered leaving.

"I was frustrated a lot," says the senior cornerback from Austell, Ga.

During his first two seasons, he had played in 15 games, but sparingly as a back-up and on special teams.

"Terrell was going through a time where he wasn't getting on the field and things were just going wrong for him," Hollowell says. "We just told him to be strong."

Butler's support group included several players in addition to Hollowell, among them Benard Thomas and Ira Cooper, members of his recruiting class. Jammal Lord and Jerrell Pippens were there for him, too. "We kept pushing him and being positive with him," says Hollowell.

He wouldn't have stayed otherwise. "My friends kept me here," Butler says.

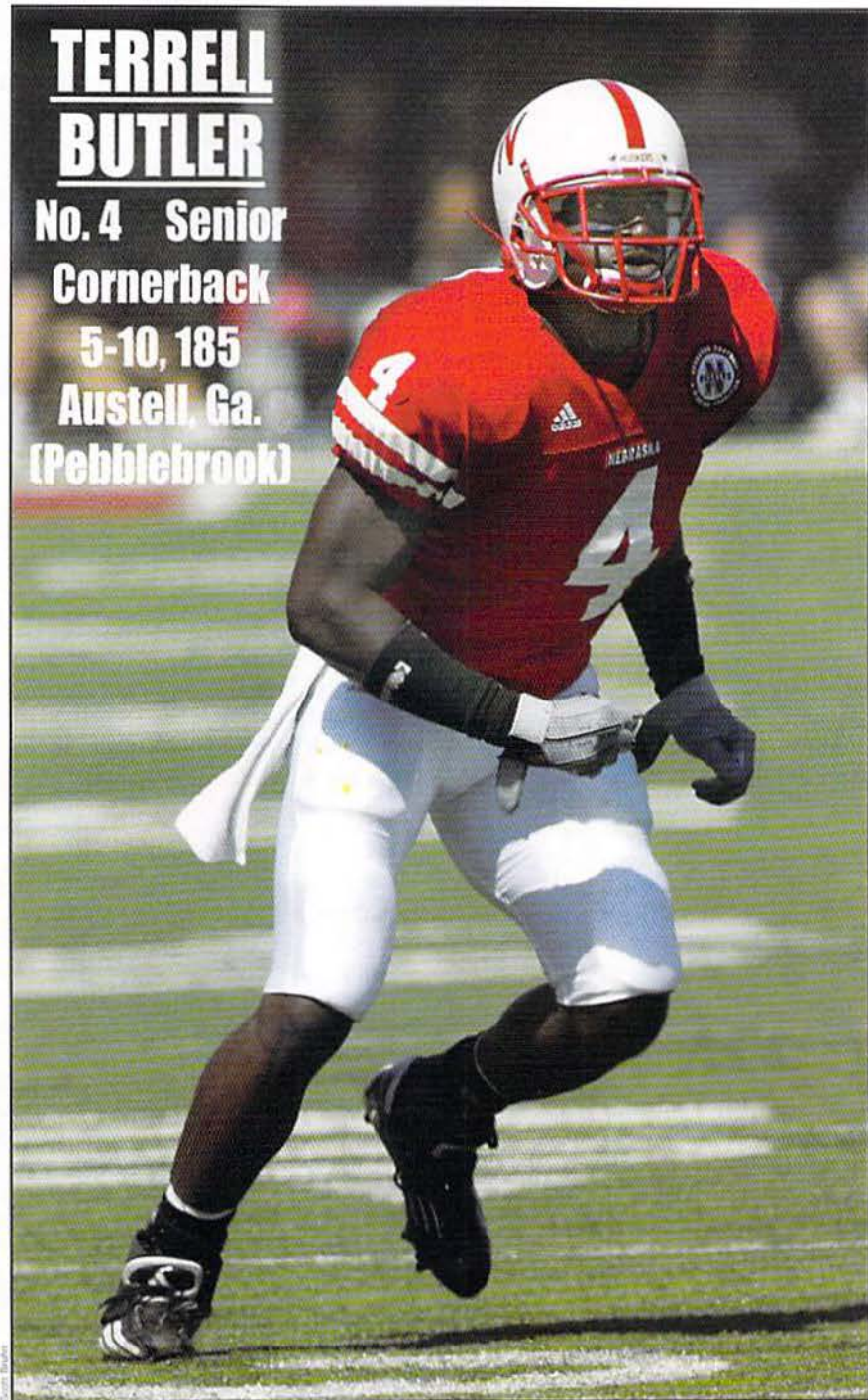
Even though he has never gotten to play as much as he had hoped when he signed a letter of intent, Butler has gained a perspective that has enabled him to endure when others haven't.

He was all-county in football and track at Pebblebrook High in suburban Atlanta and drew recruiting attention from several schools, among them Georgia Tech, Tulane

**TERRELL
BUTLER**

**No. 4 Senior
Cornerback**

**5-10, 185
Austell, Ga.
(Pebblebrook)**



and Boston College.

Had he not come to Nebraska, he probably would have gone to Boston

College, where he might have played offense, wide receiver. "I knew I didn't want to stay in Georgia," he says.

He enjoyed his Boston College recruiting trip, but his hosts during the Nebraska visit, Correll Buckhalter and Joe Walker, "answered all the questions I had," says Butler.

He still stays in touch with them. "They were just real," he says.

So even though it snowed while he was in Lincoln, he settled on the Cornhuskers.

The start of his career was promising. He arrived in the summer to begin preparing, moving in with DeJuan Groce, Mike Demps and Thunder Collins, who also was in his recruiting class.

That fall, he played as a true freshman, one of only four. Hollowell, Thomas and Willie Amos were the others. Thomas and Amos subsequently redshirted and have another season of eligibility. But the Kansas State game will be the last at Memorial Stadium for Butler and Hollowell.

Looking back, Butler wonders if he might have benefited from redshirting as a freshman, the way most in his scholarship recruiting class did. He would have a season remaining, and another year's maturity. "But I'm a grown man," he says. "I can't really cry over spilled milk."

"Sometimes I think about it because I'd still be able to play. But decisions were made."

To those outside the team, reporters for example, Butler comes across as quiet. But "I wouldn't call him a quiet guy," Hollowell says. "If the conversation's going on, he'll get his 2 cents in."

"Terrell, he gets along with a lot of people real well. He's laid-back and cool."

Hollowell would know as well as anyone. The two have been roommates for the last two-and-a-half years, since they moved out of the dorms following their freshman year.

"We come from the same type of background and just hit it off," says Hollowell, who's from Copperas Cove, Texas. "Terrell's a guy I'm going to know the rest of my life."

Such friendships are among the many things Butler will take with him from Nebraska.

"There are a lot of things I know about life, a lot of things I know about football that I really didn't

know too much about before," he says. "I always try to look for the positives."

"I came here for a reason. I'm lucky to be where I'm at."

He wouldn't have said that following his sophomore season. But Hollowell and the others convinced him to stay the course he had chosen, even if he hadn't found what he expected to find.

At the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., last December, he was returning from a mall with some teammates, needing to get back to the team hotel for a meeting or some bowl function.

Lord's cousin was driving and assured the players they would make it.

"He was like, 'Don't worry, we'll be there. This is Hit or Miss Airlines,'" says Butler.

Several of the players took "hit or miss" as their theme. "It kind of stuck with us. We were saying it all weekend," he says. "That's been our motto, give it our all, no excuses, go hard."

More than the slogan, however, those words have defined a "fraternity," Butler says.

"There's a group of us, man. We're going to be boys for life." ■



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Seniors

(PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN)

Front row (from left):

Chris Loos (76), OT, Lincoln, Neb.
 Brett Lindstrom (15), QB, Omaha, Neb.
 Curt Tomasevich (35), LB, Shelby, Neb.
 Chad Buller (39), LB, Henderson, Neb.
 Ryan Ommert (8), WR, Cambridge, Neb.
 Pat Ricketts (28), CB, Omaha, Neb.
 Fred Thorne (10), CB, Lincoln, Neb.
 Tim Liley (13), WR, Lakewood, Colo.

Seth White (33), CB, Lincoln, Neb.
 Kevin Guse (26), CB, Longmont, Colo.

Middle row (from left):

Judd Davies (4), FB, Omaha, Neb.
 Jason Lohr (70), NT, Tulsa, Okla.
 Ryon Bingham (59), NT, Sandy, Utah
 Delrick Williams (9), DB, Merrillville, Ind.
 Trevor Johnson (88), DE, Lincoln, Neb.
 Jack Limbaugh (63), C, Algona, Iowa

Patrick Kabongo (94), NT, Montreal, Quebec

Jammal Lord (5), QB, Bayonne, N.J.

Cody Volk (53), OT, Norfolk, Neb.

Josh Davis (1), LB, Loveland, Colo.

Dale Endorf (32), PK, Wichita, Kan.

Robin Miller (21), LB, Kent, Wash.

Tim Green (72), OG, Omaha

Back row (from left):

Phil Peetz (82), TE, Elkhorn, Neb.

Steve Safraneck (42), LB, Omaha, Neb.

Josh Sewell (79), C, Lincoln, Neb.

Dan Vili Waldrop (68), OT, Wilmington, Calif.

Kyle Larson (19), P, Funk, Neb.

Demorris Williams (7), LB, Beckville, Texas

T.J. Hollowell (2), LB, Copperas Cove, Texas

DeAntae Grixby (6), FB, Omaha, Neb.

Terrell Butler (4), CB, Austell, Ga.

Jerrell Pippens (31), FS, Philadelphia, Pa.

Andy Wingender (34), FB, Omaha, Neb.

Older, Wiser

Vili Waldrop motivated by people back home who doubted him

By Mike Babcock

When Dan Vili Waldrop makes his final Tunnel Walk and runs onto Tom Osborne Field at Memorial Stadium for the final time before the Kansas State game, he might do something special.

What exactly he will do, "I don't know yet," the senior offensive tackle says.

He'll think of something, not only because the game will be his last at home but also because he will be celebrating his 23rd birthday that day. "I'll be an old man," he says with a smile.

As with the other seniors, Vili Waldrop is older and wiser than when he arrived at Nebraska from Banning High School in Wilmington, Calif., unfamiliar with most of his new teammates and uncertain of his future in a program he picked in large part because of its tradition of success.

He was nervous and intimidated by the coaches, in particular Frank Solich, Milt Tenopir and Charlie McBride. And he was surprised by the people he encountered in Nebraska.

At first, when strangers asked how he was doing, "it shocked me," he says. But he quickly adjusted. "The people are a lot nicer out here. I love it. The only thing it lacks is a beach."

Until his junior year in high



Dan Vili Waldrop is in his third season as a starter at right tackle.

FEATURE STORY

school, he would have taken the beach over a football field. As a freshman and sophomore at Eisenhower High in Rialto, Calif., he had little interest in playing football. He was encouraged to go out for the team, but sat on the bench and eventually quit.

His attitude changed after he transferred to Banning High for his junior year.

"I just felt like, 'This is it. I want to play football,'" he says.

His appreciation for Banning, where Cornhusker All-American Vince Ferragamo played, is such that he would like to help turn around a football program that is "rough right

now," he says.

"I kind of wish I could go back there and coach."

Vili Waldrop knew Nebraska had a reputation for developing offensive linemen and so he "wasn't really looking for playing time" as a true freshman. "I was just looking at staying with the program," he says. "First of all, I didn't know how long I'd stay because of missing home."

There were people back home who doubted him, saying that he wouldn't succeed at a school like Nebraska, that he would be back in southern California within the first year.

Such talk strengthened his resolve. "I was like, 'Forget it. I'm going to stick it through, no matter what happens. If I don't get to play at



"The people are a lot nicer out here. I love it. The only thing it lacks is a beach."

— Senior tackle Dan Vili Waldrop

all, I'll be happy with my choice," he says.

He has gotten to play a lot, backing up Toniue Fonoti at left guard as a redshirted freshman during the 2000 Alamo Bowl season and then starting for the past three seasons at right tackle.

He and fullback Judd Davies are the Cornhuskers' only three-year starters.

Fonoti, a distant cousin on his father's side, was a member of Vili Waldrop's recruiting class. Of the 20 scholarship freshmen in the Class of 1999, eight didn't complete their eligibility, for various reasons. Fonoti, of course, left for the NFL after an All-America junior season.

Rob Blomeier, Shaun Coleman, Taylor Gehman and Blanchard Johnson were lost to injuries at different stages of their careers. Jon Dawson and Junior Tagoa'i were dismissed for off-the-field problems. And Spencer Owen left early on to return home to Carrollton, Mo., for personal reasons.

"He was a good rush end, a farm boy, strong," says Vili Waldrop.

Carl Crawford, a quarterback from Houston, also signed a letter of intent with Nebraska in 1999, but opted for baseball after being a second-round draft pick of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

"He's having fun," Vili Waldrop says. Crawford is already in the big leagues.

"The freshman class, we had a good time," says Vili Waldrop. "I miss a lot of the guys that aren't here anymore, all of those guys. I wish they were around for this season."

Four others in the Class of 1999 also came in as offensive linemen, Dawson, Fonoti, Chris Loos and Tim Green. Loos and Green have been hampered by injuries throughout their careers.

Vili Waldrop roomed with Fonoti and Tagoa'i, to whom he also is related on his father's side, as freshmen, an arrangement that made the adjustment to Nebraska easier.

The three had met in high school, at an awards banquet for athletes from the Pacific Islands — Vili Waldrop was born in Pago Pago, American Samoa — on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.

The event at the Polynesian Cultural Center was formal, Hawaiian formal, which meant everyone wore Hawaiian shirts and khaki shorts except Vili Waldrop, who wore a tuxedo.

Tagoa'i was the first to laugh. "I looked good, though," Vili Waldrop says.

He competed against Fonoti when Banning went to Hawaii to play Kahuku High. "We were there more for just being in Hawaii, away from our parents," he says.

The game quickly got out of hand, he says. Kahuku won easily.

Vili Waldrop knew nothing about

Nebraska when he made his recruiting visit. The weather was cold and icy, and he got sick while he was in Lincoln, just as he did on his trip to Colorado. He remembers thinking, "Well, there are two places I'm not going." But he was only half right.

His Cornhusker hosts included Tony Tata and Dominic Raiola, both Hawaiians, and "I was like, 'They came from Hawaii to play here? There's something going on here,'" he says.

Vili Waldrop is comfortable at Nebraska. He's gregarious, always cooperative with reporters, and seemingly up-beat regardless of the circumstances. "It's been really a fun ride," he says. "It's had its ups and downs. I didn't know how far I'd make it, but I've enjoyed every second."

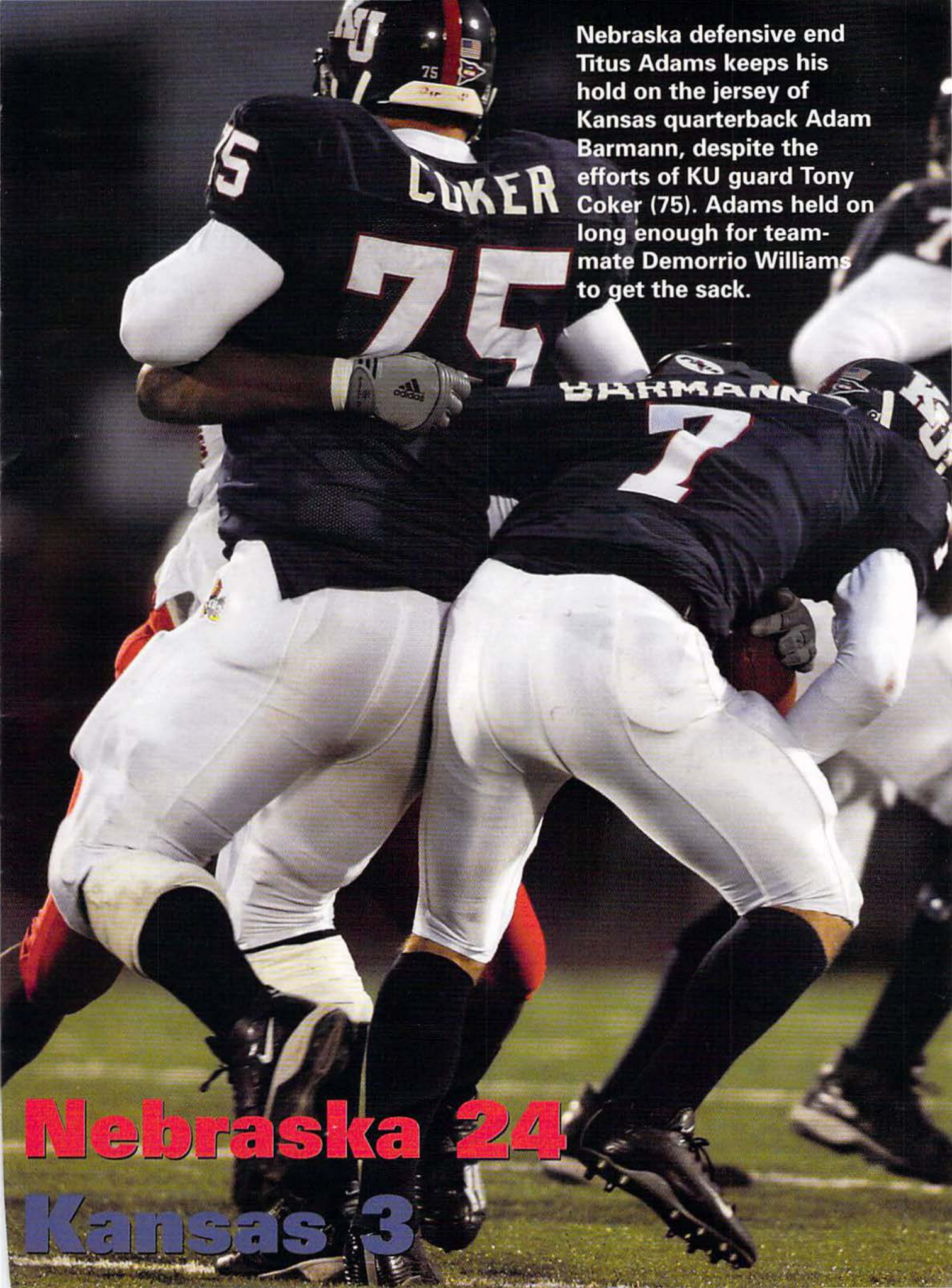
"It was a good time. Now it's winding down."

His class, walk-ons as well as scholarship recruits, is what helped him get through.

"I thought everybody was going to make it," he says. "There were some really good players we missed out on. But it happens for a reason, I guess."

He isn't sure how he'll feel when he's introduced for the final time at Memorial Stadium. But when his name is called, he might do something, it being his birthday and all.

"We'll see what happens," he says. "Something will come up." ■



Nebraska defensive end Titus Adams keeps his hold on the jersey of Kansas quarterback Adam Barmann, despite the efforts of KU guard Tony Coker (75). Adams held on long enough for teammate Demorrio Williams to get the sack.

Nebraska 24
Kansas 3

Feeling

Pippens, Husker teammates overcome adversity in 24-3 victory

When Jerrell Pippens got up on the morning of Nebraska's 24-3 victory against Kansas, he couldn't have imagined how the day would play out, to use a Frank Solich phrase.

The senior free safety was slated to start for the first time in his career at Nebraska and wasn't feeling well. He thought it was probably something he had eaten, he said.

Whatever the cause of his discomfort, he was "kind of giving it up" in his room at the team hotel, he said, attempting to be as delicate as possible in describing the problem.

And while he was "giving it up," the Cornhusker team buses left for Kansas's Memorial Stadium. By the time Pippens was able to get to the lobby, they were gone.

Enter Athletic Director Steve Pederson, who drove him to the stadium.

On the way, Pippens told Pederson, "This is my day to start and I'm sick."

Regardless of how he felt — he was feeling all right by game time — Pippens' presence was essential to the scheme in which the Cornhuskers opened. He was the starting nickel back, in place of junior Lornell McPherson, who was a pallbearer at a friend's funeral in Omaha that morning.

McPherson flew to Lawrence, arriving after the game had started. So "I had to suck it up," said Pippens. "Kansas didn't care if I was feeling well."

In all likelihood, the Jayhawks couldn't have known he was under the weather. He intercepted a pass to set up Nebraska's first touchdown



Fullback Judd Davies (4) and quarterback Jammal Lord (5) celebrate (above) after one of Davies' two touchdowns in the second half. Linebacker Demorrio Williams makes a point (right). Williams led the Husker with 12 tackles, including four tackles for losses and two sacks.

BY MIKE BABCOCK
PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

drive and finished with an unofficial 10 tackles. "It was a tough deal for him," defensive coordinator Bo Pelini said. "He responded, played a great football game."

Pippens was one of many Cornhuskers who responded on the cold, gray day. Sophomore I-back Cory Ross was another, coming off the bench to rush for 108 yards on 19

carries.

Ross had carried only 36 times on the season, gaining 139 yards. But he twisted and turned his way through a Kansas defense that had shown a vulnerability to the run for exactly twice as many yards as his previous single-game high. "I thought he responded very, very well," said Solich.

Better



GAME STORY

"His quickness showed, and his toughness showed also."

Ross was coming off a thigh bruise suffered in the Texas game. Based on his play in practice during the week, however, the No. 3 I-back "needed to have a shot," Solich said.

Ross got his shot after Josh Davis and David Horne got theirs. And the results were gratifying, in light of a team's 53-rushing-yards performance at Texas the week before.

The Cornhuskers finished with 290 yards rushing, their third-highest total of the season. Quarterback Jammal Lord also passed for 110 yards, given them 400 yards of total

offense. "When you control the line of scrimmage, it gets to be an easier game to call (offensively)," said Solich.

Even so, the defense had to check Kansas until the offense got untracked in the second half. Nebraska ran only six plays in the second quarter and was clinging to a 10-3 lead at the intermission.

In the wake of the Texas loss, the Cornhusker defenders had their black practice jerseys pulled on Monday. And Pelini placed a gag order on discussing the matter.

"We will have players back in Blackshirts pretty quick," Solich said.

But they hadn't gotten back the coveted jerseys by week's end.

Blackshirts or not, they got the job done, allowing only a field goal late in the first half, after Kansas got a second chance because of an offside penalty. Pippens blocked the first attempt.

Strong safety Daniel Bullocks intercepted a pass to halt a Jayhawk drive that reached the Nebraska 7-yard line midway through the third quarter, with the score still 10-3, and weakside linebacker Demorrio Williams recovered a fumble forced by middle linebacker Barrett Ruud at the Cornhusker 1-yard line to stop the final Kansas possession with 4 minutes remaining in the game.

Pelini was asked if the defense had been more opportunistic than dominant.

"I don't care one way or the other," he said. "That's your thing to call."

Williams, the Fox Sports Net Nebraska Player of the Game, created his opportunities. He was credited with a game-high 12 tackles, including two sacks for 9 yards in losses.

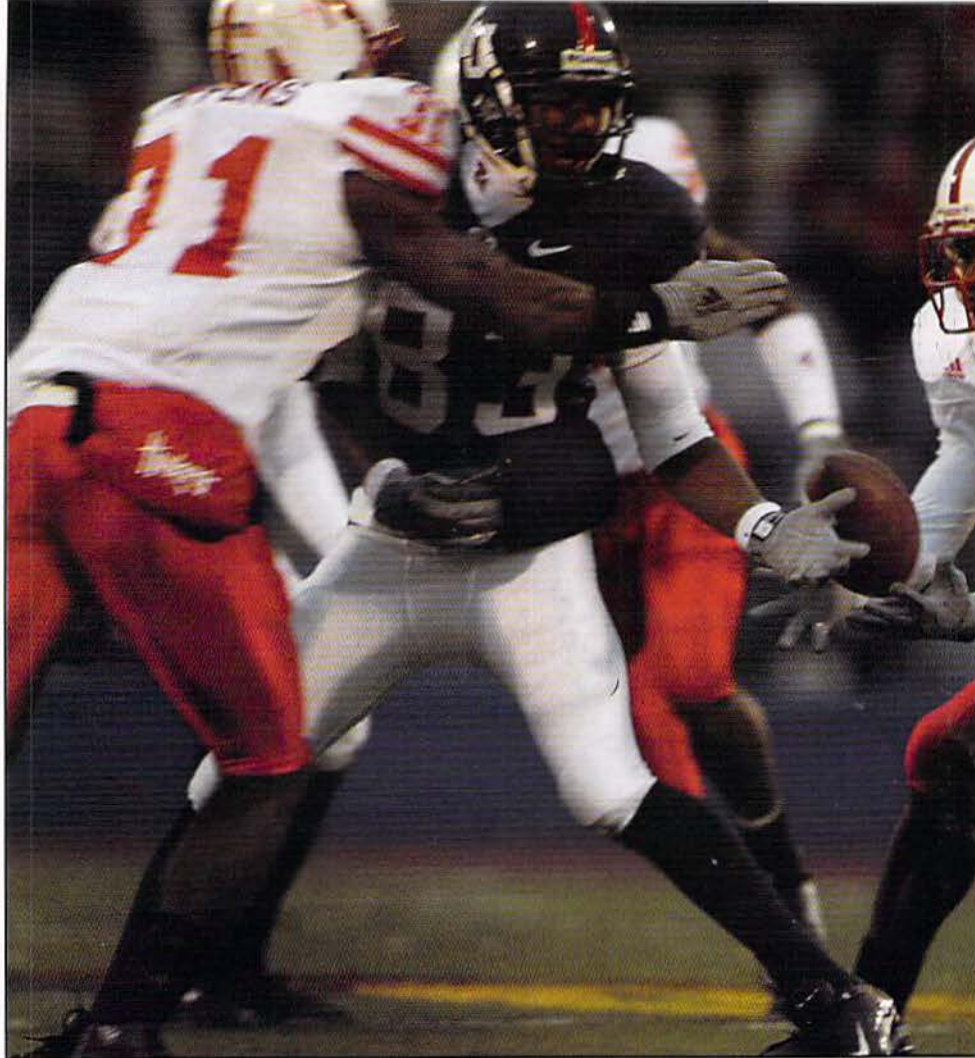
It wasn't just Williams and Pippens on defense, however. "Everybody stepped up," said free safety Josh Bullocks, who got his ninth interception of the season.

The same was true on offense. The line was "moving the pile," Lord said, and fullbacks Judd Davies and Steve Kriewald scored all three of the game's touchdowns.

Kriewald would have scored another but fumbled as he bulled over a defender at the goal line.

Nebraska came out as if it were going to attack through the air. Lord threw nine passes in the first quarter, completing five for 58 yards. But he would throw only three the rest of the way.

One of those three was good for 39 yards to the Jayhawk 3-yard line to set up the final touchdown. Wide receiver Isaiah Fluellen made the catch, taking the ball from the defender.



Free safety Josh Bullocks (20) intercepts a pass (above) intended for KU's Mark Simmons (83), who is covered by Jerrell Pippens (31). Nebraska Coach Frank Solich discusses a call (right) with an official.

"Isaiah's catch was certainly a big play for us down the stretch," said Solich.

But by then, Nebraska had gotten the momentum, offensively, he said.

Also by then, Pippens was feeling pretty good, although with nothing on his stomach, he was hungry. Getting his first start "felt good, after paying my dues," he said. "I'm happy."

McPherson made it to the game and played. In fact, the two were in the game at the same time. "That shows where his heart is at," Pippens said. "I have a lot of respect for Lornell McPherson."

Pippens considered everything that had happened since he had awakened.

"I had a rough morning. I had a long day," he said. "This is not a day I'll forget." ■



GAME NOTES

Notes And Quotes From The Kansas Game

ANOTHER JOHNSON

Back-up I-backs have a tradition of performing well against Kansas, the most notable being Craig Johnson, who rushed for 439 yards in the three games against the Jayhawks from 1978 to 1980.

His best performance was 192 yards as a sophomore.

Calvin Jones came off the bench in the 1991 game at Lawrence, replacing an injured Derek Brown, to rush for a school-record 294 yards. Jones was a freshman that season.

Cory Ross, the No. 3 I-back on the depth chart going into the game, rushed for 108 yards on 19 carries to lead Nebraska in rushing. "There were some creases I was hitting," he said.

The 5-foot-6, 200-pound Ross said his size "probably helped me with those big guys in front of me. I was just thinking keep running, keep running."

After the game, Cornhusker fans chanted "Ross, Ross."

Ross said he has been patient this season because he has needed to be.

"We've got two good I-backs in front of me," he said, referring to Josh Davis and David Horne. They rushed for a combined 58 yards on 12 carries.

"I've just got to make the most of my opportunities," Ross said.

ECLIPSING 100

Junior middle linebacker Barrett Ruud was credited with 10 tackles — official totals are released after the videotape is evaluated — to increase his season's total to 105. He is the first Cornhusker to reach 100 tackles in a season since 1998, when Mike Brown was involved in 102 tackles.

Ruud's total is Nebraska's highest since 1983, when Mike Knox made 125.

Ruud now has 245 career tackles, with ties with Knox for 10th on the all-time list.

Weakside linebacker Demorrio Williams was credited with a game-high 12 tackles against Kansas and now has 95 tackles on the season. Williams had four tackles for losses of 12 yards.

THORPE AWARD

Sophomore free safety Josh Bullocks is among 12 semifinalists for the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's top collegiate defensive back. He is the only sophomore in the group, and one of three players from the Big 12. Three finalists will be announced on Nov. 25.

"I think he's having an outstanding year," Coach Frank Solich said afterward. "I think he should be up for every award that's out there, even though he's just a sophomore."

Bullocks also began returning punts during practice. "We keep plugging him in to more things," said Coach Frank Solich. Bullocks returned punts in high school and "looks very good." He did not return punts against the Jayhawks, however.

Bullocks' twin brother Daniel, the strong safety, was the special teams captain for the game.

Each intercepted a pass, for Daniel his first, for Josh his ninth to increase his school record.

BECOMING A HABIT

Nebraska intercepted three passes in the game to bring its season total to 24, third most in school history. The 1970 team intercepted 30 passes, and the 1971 team intercepted 27 passes.

The Cornhuskers have intercepted at least one pass in every game this season, and they have intercepted at least two passes in each of the last seven games.

Nebraska also recovered one fumble, for four turnovers in the game and 39 for the season. The Cornhuskers have converted those 39 turnovers into 124 points.

EXPANDED ROSTER

The Big 12 allows teams to take all of their seniors to one conference road game each season, so 85 Cornhuskers traveled to Lawrence. Ordinarily, only 70 can travel for conference games.

True freshman offensive guard Greg Austin was not among the 85, however, as a result of a knee injury suffered during practice on the Tuesday before the game.

The injury, to the kneecap, will require surgery and two or three months of recovery, according to Solich. "That's tough on him, certainly, and tough on the team because he was really coming at the offensive guard spot, getting more and more playing time," said Solich.

With Austin sidelined, senior tackle Chris Loos began working at guard.

Senior guard Tim Green also has been lost for the season because of a back injury.

True freshman defensive tackle Brandon Teamer was included on the travel roster but was not able to play because of a back problem.

FIRST START

Redshirted freshman wide receiver Isaiah Fluellen got his first start at Nebraska. "It feels good," he said, "but it only feels good if you can keep it there and stay healthy."

Fluellen switched from the "X" receiver to the "Z" receiver during the week. ■



2003 SCHEDULE

1	Aug. 30	Oklahoma St. (7-3), W 17-7	1-0
2	Sept. 6	Utah State (3-7), W 31-7	2-0
3	Sept. 13	Penn State (2-8), W 18-10	3-0
4	Sept. 25	@ Southern Miss (6-3), W 38-14	4-0
5	Oct. 4	Troy State (4-6), W 30-0	5-0
6	Oct. 11	@ Missouri (6-3), L 41-24	5-1
7	Oct. 18	Texas A&M (4-6), W 48-12	6-1
8	Oct. 25	Iowa State (2-7), W 28-0	7-1
9	Nov. 1	@ Texas (8-2), L 31-7	7-2
10	Nov. 8	@ Kansas (5-5), W 24-3	8-2
11	Nov. 15	Kansas State (8-3), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
12	Nov. 28	@ Colorado (4-6), 11 a.m., ABC	
	Dec. 7	Big 12 Championship at Kansas City, Mo., 7 p.m.	

BIG 12 AT A GLANCE

	North		All	
	Conf.			
Nebraska	4	2	8	2
Kansas State	4	2	8	3
Missouri	2	3	6	3
Kansas	2	4	5	5
Colorado	2	4	4	6
Iowa State	0	5	2	7
	South		All	
	Conf.			
Oklahoma	6	0	10	0
Texas	5	1	8	2
Oklahoma State	3	3	7	3
Texas Tech	4	2	7	3
Texas A&M	2	4	4	6
Baylor	1	5	3	7

Saturday, Nov. 8

Nebraska 24, Kansas 3
Colorado 21, Missouri 16
Kansas State 45, Iowa State 0
Texas 55, Oklahoma State 16
Texas Tech 62, Baylor 14
Oklahoma 77, Texas A&M 0

Saturday, Nov. 15

Kansas State at Nebraska
Baylor at Oklahoma
Colorado at Iowa State
Kansas at Oklahoma State
Texas A&M at Missouri
Texas Tech at Texas

UPCOMING OPPONENTS' SCHEDULES

	Kansas State (8-3)
Aug. 23	vs. California (KC), W 42-28
Aug. 30	Troy State, W 41-5
Sept. 6	McNeese State, W 55-14
Sept. 13	Massachusetts, W 38-7
Sept. 20	Marshall, L 27-20
Oct. 4	@ Texas, L 24-20
Oct. 11	@ Oklahoma State, L 38-34
Oct. 18	Colorado, W 49-20
Oct. 25	Kansas, W 42-6
Nov. 1	Baylor, W 38-10
Nov. 8	@ Iowa State, W 45-0
Nov. 15	@ Nebraska
Nov. 22	Missouri

Colorado (4-6)

Aug. 30	vs. Colorado State, W 42-35
Sept. 6	UCLA, W 16-14
Sept. 13	Washington State, L 47-26
Sept. 20	@ Florida State, L 47-7
Oct. 4	@ Baylor, L 42-30
Oct. 11	Kansas, W 50-47 (ot)
Oct. 18	@ Kansas State, L 49-20
Oct. 25	Oklahoma, L 34-20
Nov. 1	@ Texas Tech, L 26-21
Nov. 8	Missouri, W 21-16
Nov. 15	@ Iowa State
Nov. 28	Nebraska

GAME 11

Kansas State Nov. 15

Location: Manhattan, Kan.

Enrollment: 22,762

2003 record: 8-3

Coach: Bill Snyder, 15th year

Series: Nebraska leads 72-13-2



Time: 2:30 p.m., CST, ABC
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

Wildcat to Watch

Kansas State tailback Darren



Sproles is coming off a career-high 201 yards rushing and three touchdowns vs. Iowa State. For the season, the diminutive junior has rushed for 1,300 yards and 12 touchdowns. He has 3,876 career all-purpose yards, 147 short of the KSU mark of 4,023 set by Aaron Lockett (1998-2001).

Quick Facts

Since losing three straight to Marshall, Texas and Oklahoma State, the Wildcats have been dominant, outscoring their last four opponents 174-36.

K-State has not allowed a defensive touchdown in 12 quarters against Kansas (two field goals), Baylor (a field goal and a touchdown on a kickoff return) and Iowa State.

Senior quarterback Ell Roberson completed 10 of 12 passes with no interceptions against Iowa State. After throwing seven interceptions in his first 83 attempts, Roberson has zero in his last 99.

Roberson has passed for 1,545 yards and 18 touchdowns and rushed for 1,641 yards and 11 TDs.

Senior linebacker Josh Buhl is the Wildcats' leading tackler with 145, including 8 tackles for losses.

ON DECK

At Colorado Nov. 28

Location: Boulder, Colo.

Enrollment: 27,954

2003 record: 4-6

Coach: Gary Barnett, 4th year

Series: Nebraska leads 43-16-2



Time: 11 a.m., CST, ABC
Folsom Field, Boulder, Colo.

TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

WR X	2	Ross Pilkington*	6-0	190	So.
	24	Jack O'Holleran	5-10	205	Jr.
LT	51	Richie Incognito*	6-3	300	So.
	69	Nick Piovato*	6-3	300	Jr.
LG	78	Mike Erickson**	6-4	305	Jr.
	75	Brandon Koch	6-3	310	So.
C	79	Josh Sewell*	6-2	300	Sr.
	64	Kurt Mann	6-3	290	RFr.
RG	71	Jake Andersen*	6-1	300	Jr.
	75	Brandon Koch	6-3	310	So.
RT	68	Dan Vili Waldrop***	6-5	350	Sr.
	68	Darren DeLone	6-5	320	Jr.
TE Y	11	Matt Herlan*	6-5	240	So.
	82	Phil Peetz**	6-2	270	Sr.
QB	5	Jammal Lord***	6-2	220	Sr.
	12	Joe Dailey	6-0	200	Fr.
FB	4	Judd Davies***	6-0	250	Sr.
	45	Steve Kriewald**	5-10	250	Jr.
IB	1	Josh Davis**	5-11	205	Sr.
	9	David Horne*	6-0	200	So.
WR Z	28	Isaiah Fluellen	6-0	180	RFr.
or	10	Mark LeFlore*	5-11	185	So.
PK	27	David Dyches	6-1	190	Fr.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

LDE	5	Benard Thomas**	6-4	265	Jr.
	96	Titus Adams*	6-3	290	So.
NT	59	Ryon Bingham**	6-3	290	Sr.
	94	Patrick Kabongo***	6-6	320	Sr.
DT	66	Le Kevin Smith*	6-2	305	So.
	74	Brandon Teamer	6-5	270	Fr.
RDE	88	Trevor Johnson***	6-4	255	Sr.
	90	Adam Carriker	6-6	260	RFr.
BLB	2	T.J. Hollowell***	6-0	230	Sr.
	11	Ira Cooper**	6-2	230	Jr.
MLB	38	Barrett Ruud*	6-2	240	Jr.
	54	Chad Stevers*	6-3	230	Jr.
WLB	7	Demorrio Williams	6-1	210	Sr.
	39	Chad Butler*	5-11	215	Sr.
LCB	3	Fabian Washington*	5-11	175	So.
	4	Terrell Butler*	5-10	190	Sr.
FS	20	Josh Bullocks*	6-1	195	So.
	31	Jerrell Pippens***	6-2	195	Sr.
SS	14	Daniel Bullocks*	6-1	200	So.
	23	Shane Siegel*	6-2	210	So.
RCB	28	Pat Ricketts***	5-11	180	Sr.
or	1	Lornell McPherson**	5-9	175	Jr.
P	19	Kyle Larson**	6-0	205	Sr.

KANSAS STATE OFFENSE

WR	5	James Terry*	6-5	180	Sr.
	15	Davin Dennis*	6-1	175	So.
LT	79	Jon Doty*	6-8	270	Jr.
	76	Travis Triplett	6-7	270	Sr.
LG	64	Ryan Lilja*	6-3	300	Sr.
	73	Ben Rettele**	6-7	305	Sr.
C	53	Nick Leckey***	6-4	285	Sr.
	67	Jesse Keaulana-Kamakea*	6-3	270	Sr.
RG	60	Mike Johnson*	6-4	280	Jr.
	71	Michael Weiner	6-5	265	So.
RT	66	Jeromey Clark*	6-7	290	So.
	54	Poni Holakeitui	6-6	310	Sr.
TE	86	Brian Casey*	6-7	270	Jr.
	80	Tomas Hill**	6-5	260	Sr.
QB	3	Ell Roberson***	6-1	205	Sr.
	14	Jeff Schwinn*	6-2	205	Sr.
RB	43	Darren Sproles**	5-7	170	Jr.
	34	Danny Morris***	5-10	200	Sr.
FB	44	Travis Wilson*	6-4	240	Sr.
	42	Victor Mann*	6-2	230	So.
WR	2	Antoine Polite	6-3	180	Jr.
	10	Jermaine Moreira	5-10	190	Fr.
PK	15	Joe Rheem**	6-2	210	Jr.

KANSAS STATE DEFENSE

LE	98	Andrew Shull***	6-5	260	Sr.
	93	Scott Edmonds	6-4	255	So.
DT	92	Justin Montgomery**	6-2	281	Sr.
	95	Derek Marso	6-3	279	So.
NT	91	Jermaine Berry	6-0	295	Jr.
	56	Quentin Echols	6-2	300	RFr.
RE	94	Thomas Houchin**	6-3	260	Sr.
	52	Ryan Huntley	6-8	265	Jr.
LB	18	Bryan Hickman**	6-3	230	Sr.
	58	Sean Lowe	6-3	225	RFr.
LB	45	Ted Sims	6-1	230	So.
	59	Matt Butler*	6-2	225	So.
LB	7	Josh Buhl***	6-0	210	Sr.
	57	Maurice Thurmond**	6-2	220	Jr.
CB	9	Randy Jordan*	6-2	175	Sr.
	28	David Rose*	5-10	180	Jr.
FS	23	Jesse Tetuan*	6-0	185	So.
	8	James McGill*	6-3	215	Sr.
SS	2	Rashad Washington***	6-3	210	Sr.
	31	Marcus Patton*	6-1	210	Jr.
CB	4	Cedrick Williams	5-9	165	Jr.
	20	Louis Lavender	6-0	185	Jr.
P	6	Jared Brito***	6-2	185	Sr.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. KANSAS STATE



NOVEMBER 15, 2003
K-STATE'S VISION OF BEING TOP CAT IN BIG 12
NORTH COMES APART DURING VISIT TO LINCOLN!

PICKS

Brian Hill Editor

There are at least a couple of reasons to pick Kansas State. Their names are Ell Roberson and Darren Sproles. The Wildcats have not allowed an offensive touchdown in the last three games, but those games were against Kansas, Baylor and Iowa State. Even with its struggles, the Nebraska offense is better than any of those ... and the defense will make its usual contributions. **Nebraska 22, Kansas State 20**

Mike Babcock
Contributing Editor
Nebraska controls its own

KANSAS STATE AT NEBRASKA

destiny in the Big 12. And the game is at home. If the defense can rattle Ell Roberson, the Cornhuskers can get the job done. **Nebraska 17, Kansas State 14**

Terry Douglass Grand Island Independent Sports Editor

Starting the season with national championship aspirations, Kansas State's season has been a major disappointment for the purple people. Still, a win at Lincoln would go a long ways toward salvaging the campaign, but Nebraska is still too tough at home. **Nebraska 17, Kansas State 14**

GAME STATS

NEBRASKA Vs. KANSAS

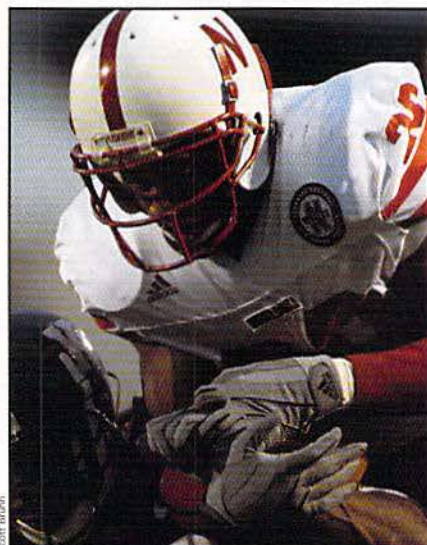
Nov. 8, 2003 • Memorial Stadium • Lawrence, Kan.

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Nebraska	3	7	7	7	—	24
Kansas	0	3	0	0	—	3

TEAM STATS

	NU	KU
First Downs	27	19
Rushing	16	4
Passing	5	13
Penalty	6	2
Rushing Attempts	53	29
Yards Gained Rushing	293	116
Yards Lost Rushing	3	28
Net Yards Rushing	290	88
Net Yards Passing	110	204
Passes Attempted	12	34
Passes Completed	7	24
Had Intercepted	1	3
Total Plays	65	63
Total Net Yards	400	292
Avg. Gain Per Play	6.2	4.6
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	8-87	8-78
Punts-Yards	2-77	4-168
Avg. Per Punt	38.5	42.0
Punt Returns-Yards	2-6	0-0
Interceptions-Yards	3-13	1-0
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	2-48	3-50
Possession Time	28:24	31:36



Isaiah Fluellen hauls in a 39-yard pass from Jammal Lord in the fourth quarter.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING

Name	Att	Yds	YPC	LNG	TD
Ross, C.	19	108	5.7	11	0
Lord, J.	13	85	6.5	17	0
Davis, J.	7	36	5.1	9	0
Kriewald, S.	6	27	4.5	12	1
Horne, D.	5	22	4.4	14	0
Davies, J.	3	12	4.0	5	2

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Lord, J.	7-12-1	58.3	110	0

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
LeFlore, M.	3	39	13.0	14	0
Fluellen, I.	2	45	22.5	39	0
Herian, M.	1	16	16.0	16	0
Pilkington, R.	1	10	10.0	10	0

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG	I20
Larson, K.	2	77	38.5	39	0

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	2	6	3.0	3	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	2	48	24.0	32	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	Att.	Good	Long
Dyches, D.	1	1	28

DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Williams, D.	8	4	12	4-12	0	2-9
Pippens, J.	6	4	10	1-1	1-2	0
Ruud, B.	6	4	10	1-0	0	0
Hollowell, T.	2	5	7	1-3	0	1-3
Bullocks, J.	3	2	5	0	1-0	0
Bullocks, D.	3	1	4	0	1-11	0
Washington, F.	2	2	4	0	0	0
Johnson, T.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Adams, T.	1	1	2	1-6	0	1-6
Smith, L.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Bingham, R.	1	1	2	1-1	0	0
McPherson, L.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Ricketts, P.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Thomas, B.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Thorne, F.	0	1	1	0	0	0

KANSAS

RUSHING

Name	Att	Yds	YPC	LNG	TD
Green, C.	13	49	3.8	18	0
Randle, J.	7	31	4.4	8	0
Rideau, B.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Barmann, A.	8	3	0.4	9	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Barmann, A.	24-34-3	70.6	204	0

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Gordon, C.	6	47	7.8	20	0
Rideau, B.	5	41	8.2	12	0
Simmons, M.	3	19	6.3	15	0
Green, C.	3	19	6.3	9	0
Johnson, M.	2	30	15.0	19	0
Anderson, L.	2	19	9.5	14	0
Randle, J.	2	7	3.5	4	0
Latimore, D.	1	22	22.0	22	0

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG	I20
Ansell, C.	4	168	42.0	46	2

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Heaggans, G.	3	50	16.7	25	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	Att.	Good	Long
Brooks, J.	1	1	20

DEFENSE LEADERS

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Toomey, G.	5	6	11	1-1	0	0
Stubbs, T.	5	4	9	0	0	0
Lamb, J.	4	3	7	0	1-0	0
Reid, N.	3	4	7	1-0	0	0
Coke, D.	3	0	6	0	0	0
Gordon, C.	3	2	5	0	0	0
Kane, K.	3	1	4	0	0	0
Randle, J.	3	0	3	0	0	0
McMillan, D.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Floodman, B.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Kipp, C.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Perkins, B.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Allen, T.	1	1	2	1-2	0	0
Thompson, K.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Knighton, K.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Jones, A.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Rus, D.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Beck, J.	1	0	1	0	0	0
McCoey, J.	1	0	1	0	0	0

SCORING

NU — David Dyches 28-yard field goal

NU — Steve Kriewald 1-yard run (Dyches kick)

KU — Jerod Brooks 20-yard field goal

NU — Judd Davies 4-yard run (Dyches kick)

NU — Judd Davies 3-yard run (Dyches kick)

Att. — 50,107

Weather — cloudy

Temp. — 38

2003 SEASON STATS

RUSHING LEADERS

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Lord, J.	10	163	713	71.3	9
Davis, J.	10	133	570	57.0	2
Horne, D.	10	106	446	44.6	4
Ross, C.	10	45	247	24.7	1
Dailey, J.	7	32	128	18.3	0
Fluellen, I.	8	10	100	12.5	1
Kriewald, S.	10	14	79	7.9	1
Davies, J.	10	25	67	6.7	4
Miller, R.	6	10	65	10.8	1
LeFlore, M.	10	2	21	2.1	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Lord, J.	10	61-115-6	53.0	901	4
Dailey, J.	7	9-14-2	64.3	117	2

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPR	TD
Herian, M.	10	18	399	22.2	39.9	2
Pilkington, R.	10	15	220	14.7	22.0	1
LeFlore, M.	10	16	162	10.1	16.2	1
Fluellen, I.	8	8	162	20.2	20.2	2
Davis, J.	10	4	21	5.2	2.1	0
Davies, J.	10	4	19	4.8	1.9	0
Ross, C.	10	1	10	10.0	1.0	0
Keiser, D.	10	1	9	9.0	0.9	0
Kriewald, S.	10	1	6	6.0	0.6	0
Horne, D.	10	1	5	5.0	0.5	0
Liley, T.	10	1	5	5.0	0.5	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Dyches, D.	9	17	12	41
DeAngelis, S.	6	3	1	28

PUNTING

Name	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LNG	I20
Larson, K.	49	2,215	45.2	80	17

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	25	220	8.8	39	0
Ross, C.	6	62	10.3	30	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Davis, J.	16	412	25.8	43	0
O'Holleran, J.	2	27	13.5	21	0

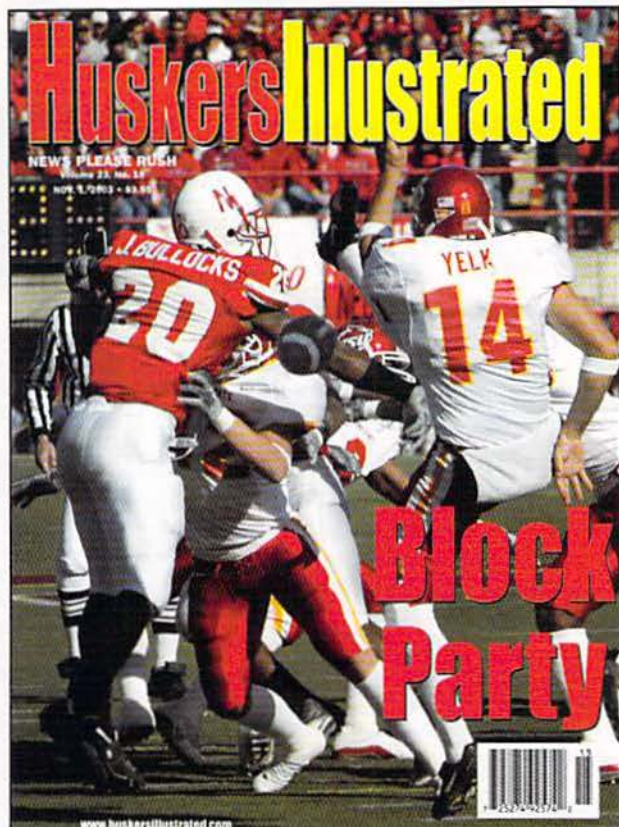
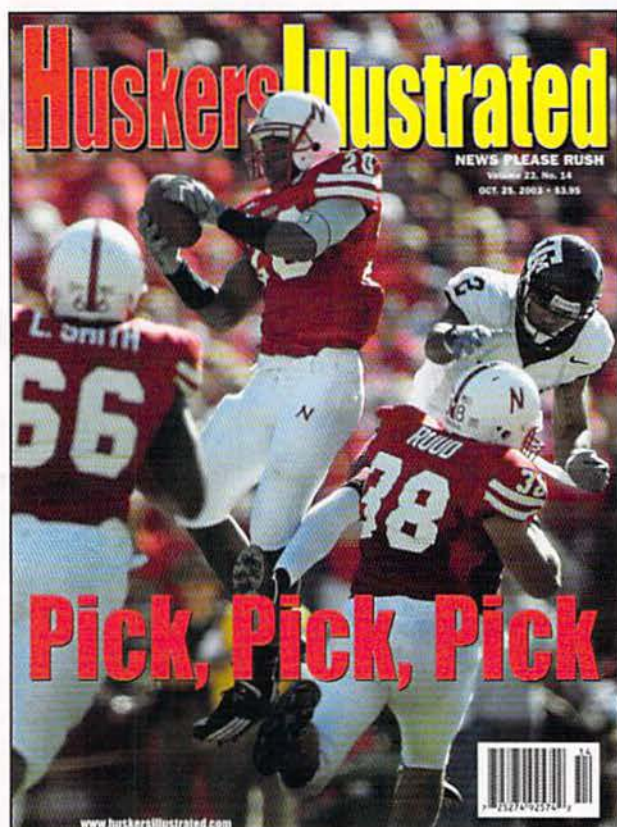
DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Ruud, B.	10	49	56	105	11-36	1-27	2.5-21
Williams, D.	10	58	35	93	14-57	1-2	8.5-49
Hollowell, T.	10	29	32	61	7-29	1-10	2-13
Bullocks, D.	10	33	20	53	4-5	1-11	0
Johnson, T.	10	28	24	52	7-23	0	2-15
Washington, F.	10	31	19	50	3-6	3-14	0
Bullocks, J.	10	16	21	37	0	9-113	0
Pippens, J.	10	20	16	36	3-10	2-2	1-7
Bingham, R.	8	16	17	33	6-9	0	1-2
Smith, L.	10	15	18	33	5-12	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS

Total Offensive Yards	3,434	2,795				
Plays	693	657				
Average Per Play	5.0	4.3				
Average Per Game	343.4	279.5				
Net Rushing Yards	2,416	1,221				
Attempts	562	338				
TDs Rushing	23	10				
Net Passing Yards	1,018	1,574				
Completions	70	156				
Average Per Pass	7.8	4.9				
Average Per Catch	14.5	10.1				
Average Per Game	101.8	157.4				
TDs Passing	6	5				
Sacks By-Yards	20-155	14-112				
Fumbles-Lost	26-12	23-14				
Penalties-Yards	75-591	63-513				
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
NU	83	39	95	48	0	265
Opponents	31	34	6	54	0	125

All Huskers . . .



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. . . All The Time

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Easy Decision

*Pete's time
after football
has 'been
like a dream'*

By Mike Babcock

On May 3, 1994, Lawrence Pete notified the Detroit Lions that he was retiring, walking away after five seasons, leaving on his own terms, and he couldn't be persuaded otherwise.

Two days later, he began working for First National Bank in Omaha, starting at the bottom and working his way up through the ranks. He is a branch manager and investment broker now. His time after football has "been like a dream, like Disneyland," he says. "God has blessed me."

On the day in 1989 he signed his first contract with the Lions, as a fifth-round draft pick, he envisioned doing cartwheels down the ramp at the Silverdome "leaving this place."

For him football was always a means to an end, never something he enjoyed. His characteristic scowl reflected his attitude toward the game he played so well, at Nebraska and then in the NFL.

He was a three-year letterman at middle guard for the Cornhuskers, on defenses that included Broderick Thomas and Neil Smith, others who would go on to success at the next level. He was a first-team all-conference selection as a senior, even though he had left the team that spring.

He was married, with a young son, and determined to support them, which meant, in his mind, giving up football and finding a job. Only because of encouragement from Smith and Thomas as well as defensive coordinator Charlie McBride and Coach Tom Osborne did he return for his senior season.

Pete was a starter for the Lions, who reached the NFC championship game against the Washington Redskins following his third season in



Lawrence Pete was a three-year letterman at middle guard and an all-conference selection as a senior.

1991. Before the game, won by the Redskins, his mom called to ask how it felt being just 60 minutes away from the Super Bowl. His answer surprised her.

"I said I got more satisfaction playing intramural basketball," he says, looking back.

Had football been only about him, he would have never accepted Nebraska's scholarship offer, never played at South High School in Wichita — where he wasn't even an all-city selection.

"I never wanted to play football," he says. "I was a weight lifter."

He was the strongest Cornhusker,

the first to bench press 500 pounds. He could overpower blockers, toss them aside like so many rag dolls. But each time he cleared a path to the ball carrier, he saw a future without helmets and pads. Football would allow him to achieve his goals, nothing more.

No football memorabilia is displayed in his Omaha home. And what drives him now is what drove him to quit the team at Nebraska in the spring of 1988. "I want to be an all-pro father," he says.

He talks of his children the way some former athletes talk of their triumphs in competition. Brandon, 16, was a sophomore defensive end on the

Millard West High School varsity this season. Nadia, 15, runs track but is giving up basketball for choir and drama. She's the "mature one," he says. And Aaliyah, 8, well, she often hears her dad say, "Sometimes when we tell you no, it's for your own good."

He remembers his mom telling him the same thing, more than he wanted to hear it.

"A lot of things my mom told me I didn't understand," he says. But now he does.

The same is true of what Osborne told him. "It didn't sink in until I got out," says Pete. "Things resurface now that he said. He wanted us to follow that straight and narrow."

He has come to realize "there's a little bit of Coach Osborne in all of us."

To understand Pete's passion for his family is to understand his journey out of a Wichita ghetto from which Osborne and McBride recruited him. He was one of 18 children, 11 girls and seven boys, raised by a single mom. His dad, a Navy veteran, was shot and killed when Lawrence Jr. was 6-years-old.

When he bought a recreational vehicle recently, he imagined he and Brandon picking up his dad and taking a fishing trip together, just the three of them. "I still miss my father," he says.

Nebraska Athletic Director Steve Pederson was the Cornhuskers' recruiting coordinator in 1984 and told Pete that Wichita must have been full of "Mean Joe Greene's" if he couldn't be all-city. He and an undersized Smith were the only defensive linemen they were recruiting, Pederson told him.

"The decision they made changed my life," Pete says. "They gave me a chance."

He made the most of that chance, though it wasn't always easy. And he could have lost the opportunity if he hadn't been persuaded to return to the team for his senior season. But "I was not going to be an absentee father," he says. And if that meant quitting football and getting a job, so be it.

That's why Brandon made the trip to the Orange Bowl following the 1988 season.

It was because of his children that he retired from the Lions, after just enough time to qualify for the NFL's pension plan. Five seasons with the Lions also provided the resources to purchase a home for his mom and help some of his brothers and sisters, as well as build his own home.

He has always managed his money,

describing himself as a "miser" from an early age. When she could, his mom would give him a weekly allowance of a dollar when he was young and more often than not, he would still have the previous week's dollar when allowance day came around.

Because he was an athlete — he was the state high school shot put champion as a senior and always enjoyed basketball — his children think "I really care about sports," says Pete. "I don't."

So when Nadia told him recently that she was planning to give up basketball, he told her it was a "great decision. She said, 'You're not upset?'" he says. "I said, 'That's awesome.'"

Brandon, at age 8, wanted to play

football, however, and his dad relented, even agreeing to coach his youth-league teams. But "we never focused on wins and losses," Pete says. "We focused on character. I told them (his players), take from the game, don't let the game take from you."

"I wish someone could have done that for me growing up."

He wishes that someone could have been his father. But then, things happen for a reason. "I'm not a bible thumper, but I think it was just meant to be," he says. He is the sum of his experiences.

"I love the father thing," he says. And "I can't wait to be a grandfather."

He considered the implications and added with a laugh, "I can, but I can't." ■



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10/02

Huskers Seeking Interior Line Help

Louisiana prospects have Nebraska high on their lists

By Doug Horwich

Nebraska has had mixed results in recruiting interior defensive linemen over the past few years. Although the staff has had success with sophomores Le Kevin Smith and Titus Adams and freshman Brandon Teamer, a number of others, including sophomores Seppo Ewvaraye and Jared Helming and freshman Brandon Greeson, are not yet in a position to contribute in a meaningful capacity.

The Husker coaches thought they had the best defensive line prospect in the country wrapped up two years



Marlon Favorite (left) and Nader Abdallah, a pair of defensive tackles from Louisiana, are interested in Nebraska.



ago when they received an oral commitment from Utah standout Haloti Ngata, but a subsequent decommitment in favor of Oregon ended that dream. To make matters worse, Ngata's cousin, Manaia Brown, transferred to Brigham Young shortly thereafter.

With Titus Adams now playing primarily at defensive end, the interior line is not quite as deep as it was expected to be. As a result, the Husker staff is looking to sign at least one big-time defensive tackle prospect in the 2004 class.

Heading the list is Marlon

Favorite (6-foot-2, 310, 4.9-second 40-yard dash) from West Jefferson High School in Harvey, La.

Favorite is one of the most heavily recruited players in the country at any position and has a list of offers that includes more than 20 teams. His current list of favorites includes Miami, LSU, Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma State and USC.

Favorite is being recruited for Nebraska by assistant Tim Albin, and the two have had some entertaining conversations.

"I enjoy talking to some coaches quite a bit and others not quite as much," Favorite said. "Tim Albin from Nebraska is real exciting to talk to because he's so excited. He'll get on the phone and yell 'Go Big Red,' and it makes me laugh. They are playing pretty good defense this year, and I've been impressed with them."

All of the attention has been quite an experience for Favorite, but he's not letting the pressure of recruiting get to him.

"I'm enjoying it," he said. "Sometimes I think that this is a once

NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2004

Player	Hometown (school)	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
Lance Brandenburgh	Overland Park, Kan. (St. Thomas Aquinas)	6-1	215	LB
Andy Christensen	Bennington, Neb.	6-3	275	DT
Allan Evridge	Papillion, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)	6-1	205	QB
Mike Huff	Ralston, Neb.	6-5	300	OL
Michael Keenan	Kansas City, Mo. (Oak Park)	6-2	220	LB
Maurice McClellan	Pawcatuck, Conn. (Stonington)	6-3	210	ATH
D.T. McDowell	Tucker, Ga.	6-1	190	QB
Terrence Nunn	Houston, Texas (Cypress Falls)	6-0	185	WR
Seth Olsen	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)	6-5	300	OL
Clay Sievers	Elkhorn, Neb.	6-4	220	TE/LB
Ty Steinkuhler	Lincoln, Neb. (Southwest)	6-3	235	DE
Nathan Swift	Hutchinson, Minn.	6-3	190	WR

in lifetime opportunity, and I need to let it all sink in and keep things on a certain level so as not to let it go to my head. I read somewhere that ESPN has me as the No. 1 defensive tackle in the country and the No. 9 recruit overall, and that's cool. I wear a size 13 shoe, and I've got about eight or nine boxes full of letters from schools."

Although Favorite has not yet scheduled a visit to Nebraska, he does plan to see Lincoln before making a decision.

"I have not set them up yet," he said. "but I'm for sure going to take official visits to Miami, USC, Colorado and Nebraska. I'll set them up toward the middle or end of my season. I'll be going to an LSU home game, too, unofficially. I'll probably end up taking all five of my visits. I have a good idea of where I want to go, but I want to explore my options."

Favorite has been watching the Huskers on television and likes what he's seen thus far.

"They're a pretty good team," he said. "They're another team that's good for defensive linemen and sending them to the NFL. I like watching them on TV."

"Coach Tim Albin wants me to set up a visit with them. I like the letters that I get from them, and I like the coaching staff quite a bit. They've always had real good football teams, so I'm real interested in them."

Favorite has also appreciated the personal touch that the Husker staff has shown in recruiting him.

"South Carolina sends me quite a bit of mail," he said, "but I get the most handwritten letters from Nebraska. I really enjoy getting the handwritten ones because they're so sincere. That means a lot to me."

The home-state LSU Tigers will be extremely hard to beat for Favorite's signature, but he maintains an open mind.

Favorite's parents definitely would like to see him remain close to home. "As far as my dad and mom are concerned, it's whatever I choose," he said. "but I think my mom would like me to stay close to home if I could. That's just how moms are, I guess."

Another defensive tackle from Louisiana who is receiving substantial interest from the Husker staff is Nader Abdallah (6-5, 290, 4.9) from Rummel High School in Metairie, La.

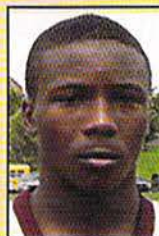
Abdallah has become a hot commodity recently. More than 35 schools have extended scholarship offers,

RECRUITING NOTES

Quarterback Still Committed to NU

By Rick Shaw

One of the early plums of Nebraska's 2004 recruiting class is quarterback D.T. McDowell of Tucker High in Tucker, Ga. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound blue-chipper committed to Husker coaches in July over offers from LSU, Auburn, Virginia, Mississippi State and others. Rivals.com currently ranks McDowell as the No. 12 dual-threat quarterback prospect in the nation.



D.T. McDowell

The Husker Nation was shaken up a bit in October with rumors that McDowell was wavering in his commitment to Nebraska. McDowell put an end to those rumors in a recent interview with HuskersIllustrated.com and reaffirmed his commitment to the Huskers.

"I heard that the rumor is that I'm changing my mind," McDowell said. "That is not true. Nebraska is my No. 1 choice . . . and still is."

"I haven't changed my mind about anything. I know where I'm going . . . Nebraska."

McDowell will be one of several high-profile recruits in Lincoln during the weekend of Nov. 15 to watch Nebraska take on Kansas State. The visit list also includes the following names:

Cortney Grixby, cornerback, 5-9, 160, Omaha (Central), Neb.

— Grixby is ranked as the nation's No. 5 cornerback prospect by Rivals.com and one of the top-100 high school recruits overall. He has narrowed his list of finalists down to Nebraska, Iowa (already visited), UCLA, Notre Dame, and Kansas State.

Brandon Gunn, running back, 5-11, 195, Omaha (Central), Neb.

— Rivals.com ranks Gunn as the No. 19 running back prospect. He already has visited Kansas State and plans visits to UCLA and Iowa, in addition to Nebraska.

Andre Brown, running back, 6-1, 210, Greenville (Rose), N.C.

— Ranked as the nation's ninth best running back prospect, Brown had amassed more than 2,300 yards rushing through 10 games this fall. He lists a top five of Virginia, North Carolina State, Nebraska, Tennessee and Miami.

Derron Thomas, running back, 6-0, 185, Reserve (East St. John), La.

— Thomas is ranked as the No. 3 all-purpose running back and one of the state of Louisiana's top eight prospects. Thomas claims offers from Colorado, Florida State, LSU, Michigan, and Oklahoma State, in addition to the Huskers.

Grayson Gunheim, defensive end, 6-6, 240, Sebastopol (Analay), Calif.

— Though projected as a defensive end in college, Gunheim stars as a tailback at Analay High. Through six games this fall, Gunheim had rushed for 770 yards. Gunheim also is looking at offers from Oregon, Oregon State, USC, Stanford, Washington, Washington State, California, Arizona State and Colorado, in addition to Nebraska. Rivals.com rates Gunheim as the No. 17 athlete in the country.

Chris Bowers, defensive end, 6-3, 240, Shreveport (Evangel), La.

— Bowers is ranked as the No. 17 weakside defensive end. He also is considering offers from Mississippi, Stanford, Texas Tech, Colorado, LSU and Texas. This two-time all-state end registered 25 sacks as a sophomore and 18 more as a junior. ■

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including Tennessee, Florida State, Michigan, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Notre Dame, UCLA, Oregon, Auburn, Alabama and Michigan State.

Abdallah's phone has been ringing off the hook lately, as would be expected. "I get between four to six calls a night from coaches," he said. "In fact, the phone rings so much that I've had to narrow my list down to only the schools that I'm interested in, and that's pretty much who I talk to on the phone. I can't let it get out of control because then it will affect my studies, and that won't do me any good."

Remarkably, Abdallah is relatively new to football. "Believe it or not, this is only my second year playing football," he said. "My brother got me interested in it, and I guess that I just took to it because of my strength and speed."

Abdallah says he runs between a 4.9 and 5.0 40, benches 360, squats 530 and has a 32-inch vertical.

The Husker staff has been in hot pursuit, and the interest is mutual. "They have a whole lot of interest in me and show it. I've talked to Coach Tim Albin and the defensive line coach. I really like Tim Albin, and he tells me they really want and need me."

Abdallah was dominant as a junior, racking up impressive statistics in only his first year playing the game. He had 109 tackles and 14 sacks and was selected all-district and all-parish.

"This year, we're 4-2 with our two losses coming to the top two teams in the state, and I personally have 45 tackles, six sacks, a fumble recovery, two fumbles caused and one batted down pass," Abdallah said.

Abdallah is in the process of arranging trips to his favorite schools, and the Huskers are in line for a visit.

"I've already set up three of my official visits," he said. "I go back to Florida State on Jan. 16, Tennessee on Jan. 23, and Nebraska is set up, too. I'm going to have to change the date on my Nebraska visit, so I can't really give you a date on it yet, but I'm going there for sure. My other two officials will come from Oklahoma, Notre Dame, Colorado, UCLA, Michigan State, Auburn, Alabama or Oklahoma State. Those are the schools that I've narrowed it down to. I'm going to take unofficals to a couple of them if I can and have the time." ■

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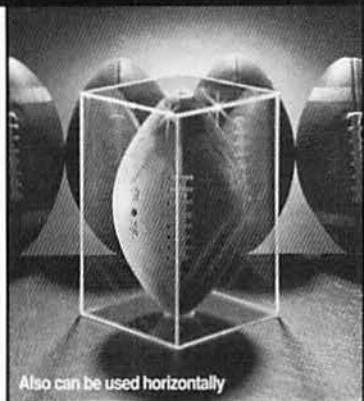
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Lots of Speed

NU redshirt freshman Fautsch has the chance to rank with program's most powerful players

By Todd Henrichs

Kelsey Fautsch has been clocked doing over the speed limit.

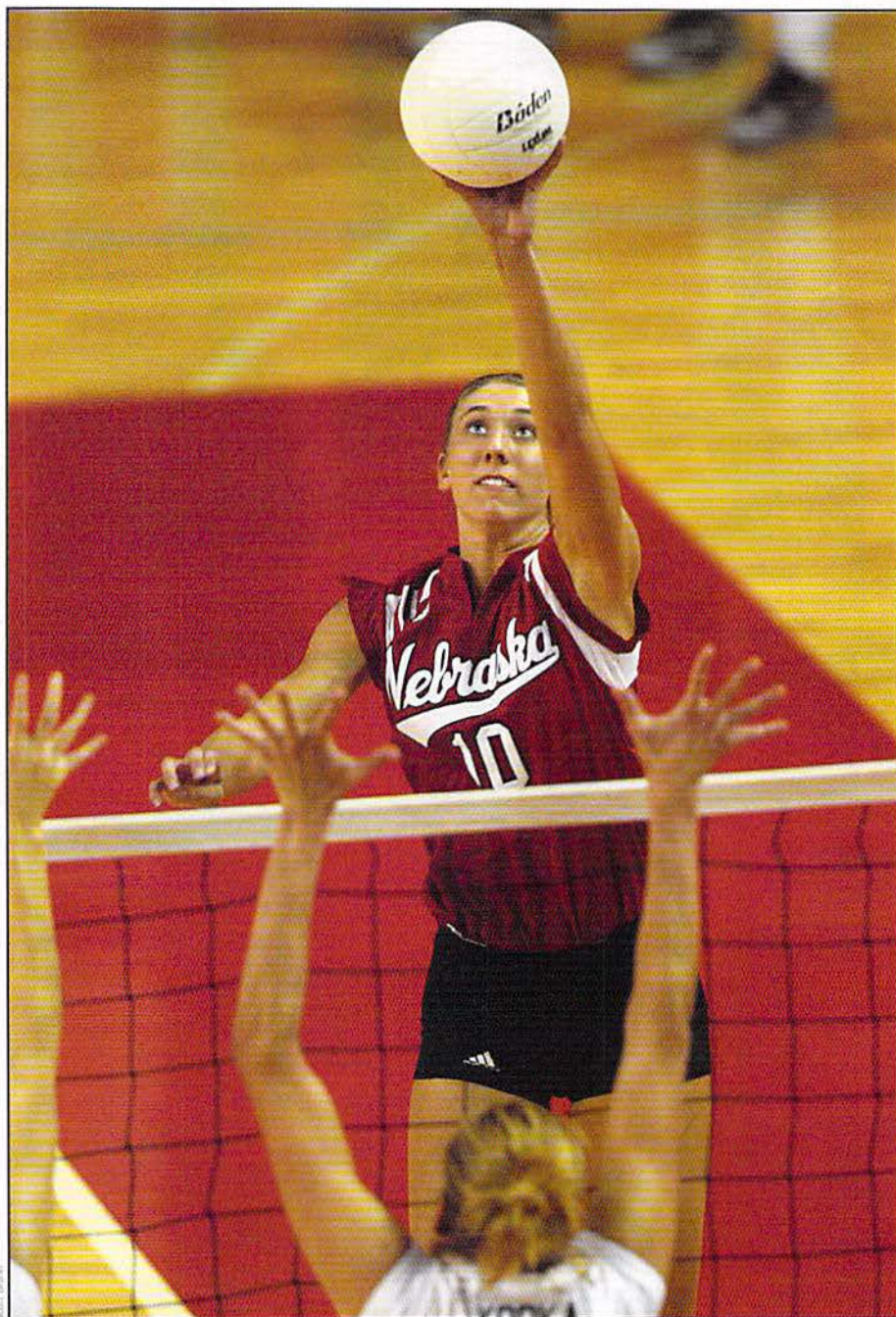
Fautsch redshirted a year ago, but the player nobody outside of the Nebraska volleyball team's locker room knew anything about was still raising eyebrows. Fautsch, a lefty with a punch, did her fair share of drilling kills against a powerful Nebraska starting lineup in practice each day.

Then, for fun, somebody showed up with a radar gun at practice, and the speed of Fautsch's swings left everyone, even All-American hitters Laura Pilakowski and Amber Holmquist, in the dust.

Almost a year later, Fautsch has yet to dust the competition, but the redshirt freshman has shown flashes of the player that could play a key role as Nebraska matures and again challenges for national titles over the next several seasons.

Fautsch debuted with a flourish as the redshirt freshman swung only nine times but produced eight kills in Nebraska's season-opening sweep of Clemson. The Chisago Lakes, Minn., native took advantage of a favorable matchup at the net and great timing with freshman setter Dani Busboom to do her damage.

"Some of them I didn't think were going to go through the block and



Kelsey Fautsch averaged 2.21 kills through Nebraska's first 23 matches.

did," said Fautsch, as quiet and modest as she is fast. "I'm just happy that I got a lot of kills. That's what I'm here for."

Fautsch averaged 2.21 kills on .254

hitting through Nebraska's first 23 matches, but her 70 hitting errors temporarily cost her a starting spot. Head coach John Cook retooled the Nebraska lineup on the heels of

back-to-back losses to Missouri and Kansas State.

Earlier in the season, Fautsch missed Nebraska's loss to Georgia Tech with pain near her rib cage. Following the match, Cook said the Huskers likely would have won with Fautsch, who returned to the lineup and quickly matched her season high of 10 kills against Iowa State. Against Texas Tech in September, Fautsch coupled five kills with five impressive blocks.

As athletic as any of the Huskers, Fautsch can be counted on to help shut down the best outside hitter on an opposing team. With 45 blocks, she was among Nebraska's mid-season leaders.

"You saw what Kelsey could do against Texas Tech," Cook said. "She had some huge plays that effected that match."

A Fab 50 recruit out of high school and an All-American in the club ranks, Fautsch is one of many Huskers with an impressive resume. She set the Chisago Lake school record for single-season blocks as a junior and kills as a senior, the year

Fautsch was named Miss Minnesota Volleyball in her home state.

Fautsch was invited to participate in a 24-person tryout for the USA Youth National Team in 2001. She chose Nebraska over Midwest powers Minnesota, Indiana and Michigan State.

Although it's not been full speed ahead, Nebraska is clearly on track for something special down the road with Fautsch and other freshmen gaining valuable experience while overcoming growing pains.

Nine Huskers who are freshmen or first-year starters have seen significant playing time in Nebraska's unique two-setter system this year. Five freshmen are in key roles with Dani Mancuso stepping in for Anna Schrad, who then moved to the right side and into Fautsch's starting spot. Libero Amanda McCormick also gained a starting spot midway through the season. Dani Busboom has been one of the Huskers' starting setters since opening day.

Perhaps the most talented freshman, middle blocker Christina Houghtelling, missed several match-

es with a stress fracture in her leg but was expected back for the stretch run. Despite having three losses before the conference season reached the halfway point, the Huskers rallied, knowing they could still make it to the final four without ever leaving Lincoln.

That is providing Nebraska holds on to a top-16 national seed.

Of course, Nebraska first has other goals in mind, notably avenging losses to the Tigers and Wildcats and regaining the lead in the Big 12 title chase. The Huskers have won the conference title every year but 1997.

Fautsch was still in middle school then but no doubt was turning heads with her athletic prowess and rocket-launching swing. It's a blur Husker fans are certain to see a lot over the next three years.

"There's been a lot of powerful players in this program, and Kelsey can be right up there with the rest of them," Cook said. "She can be a very dynamic player."

And there's no need to govern her speed. ■

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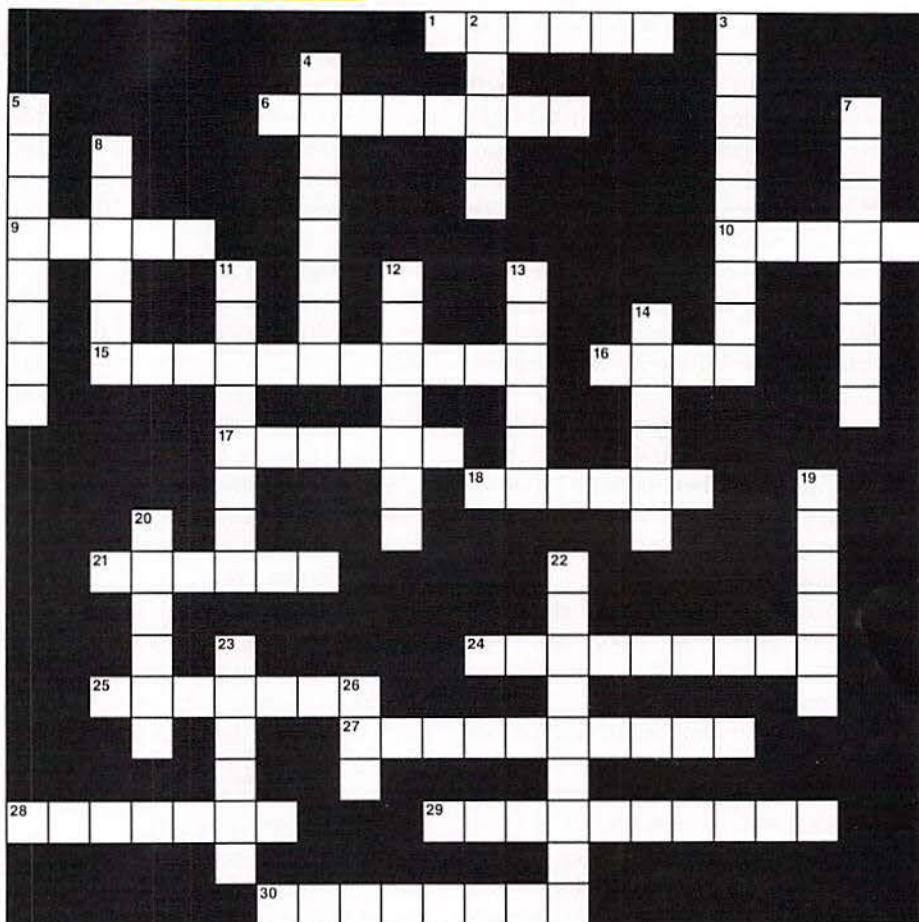
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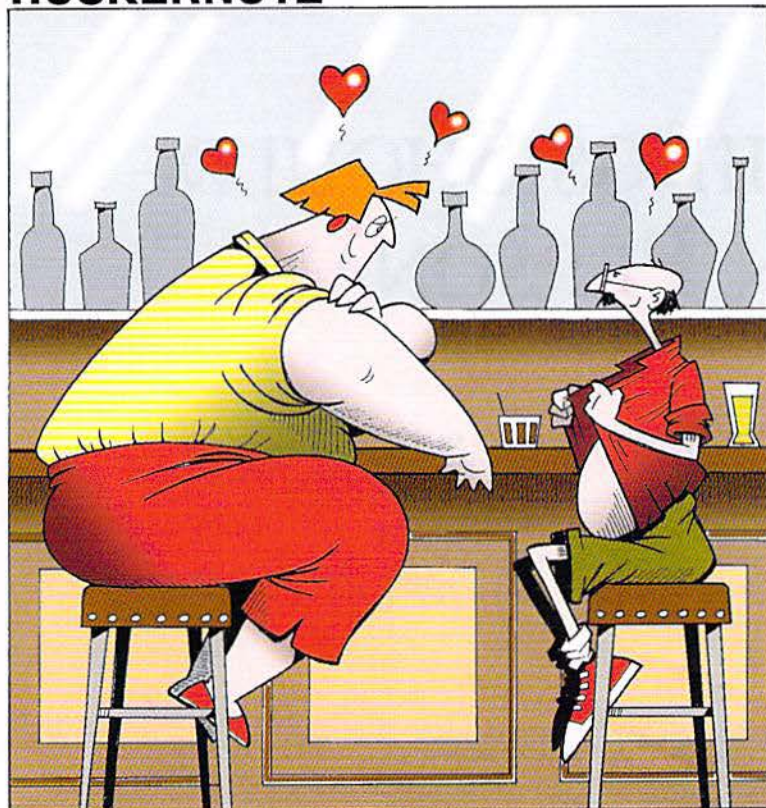
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- 8 NU's No. 4 (offense)
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Answers in Nov. 28 issue



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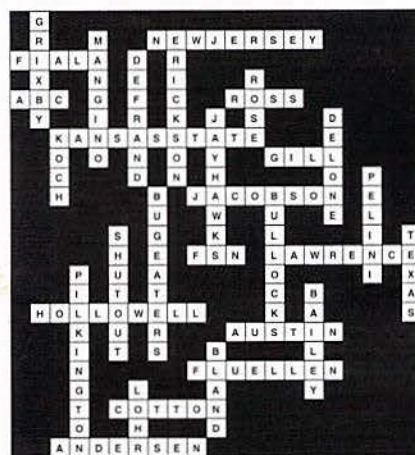
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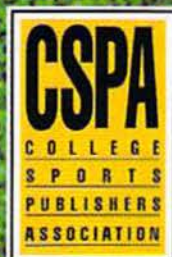
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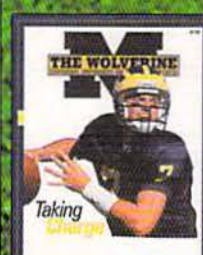
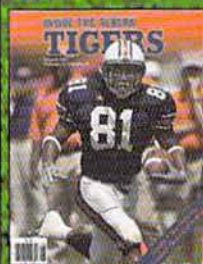
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Controlling Their Destiny

Missouri's loss means Cornhuskers need rely on no one else to get to Kansas City



Mike BABCOCK

DURING HIS WEEKLY news conference on the Tuesday before the Kansas game, Frank Solich was asked if his team would face a must-win situation in Lawrence.

Such a question is almost obligatory, he said. Every game is must win.

Still, the question was probably appropriate for several reasons. For one, the Cornhuskers were coming off a 31-7 loss at Texas in which they appeared to be over-matched in speed and athleticism. And for another, Nebraska fans have come to expect victories against Kansas.

The Jayhawks haven't won in the series since 1968.

Beyond those two things, however, were even more significant issues. On the Thursday before the game, Athletic Director Steve Pederson and Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Harvey Perlman announced a much-anticipated building project that will increase Memorial Stadium's seating capacity by 5,000 and create a state-of-the-art athletic complex on the stadium's north end.

The complex, which will include a new football locker room and performance center, will be named in honor of Tom and Nancy Osborne and will require a \$40 million fund-raising drive.

Cornhusker fans will be the focus of that fund raising.

Obviously, the enthusiasm for the project would have been diminished by a loss at Kansas.

More immediately, however, the 24-3 victory gives Nebraska control of its fate in the race to represent the North in the Big 12 championship game on Dec. 6. As a result of Missouri's 21-16 loss to Colorado, the Cornhuskers need rely on no one else to get to Kansas City.

If they win their remaining games against Kansas State and Colorado, they will head to Arrowhead Stadium.

And even though undefeated and top-ranked Oklahoma almost certainly awaits the North Division winner, playing in the Big 12 title game would help erase the memory of last season.

No sooner had the goal posts come down at Kansas — stadium workers took them down — than the Cornhuskers turned their attention to Kansas State, which is tied for the North Division lead.

"They embarrassed us last year, at their house," said quarterback Jammal Lord.

The Wildcats won in Manhattan, 49-13, with 21 points in the fourth quarter.

Oh yes, and Coach Bill Snyder left his starters in to the end.

"I don't even want to talk about it," I-back Cory Ross said.

Now, Kansas State has to come to Memorial Stadium, said Lord. Even though the Wildcats have won the last three games in the series at Manhattan, they haven't won in Lincoln since 1968.

So they'll have to deal with the burden of history as well as a Nebraska team that regained some of the confidence it lost against Texas. "I like the chemistry of this football team," Solich said.

The Kansas State game also will be the last at home for 33 Cornhusker seniors.

"This is really important to me," said free safety Jerrell Pippens, one of those seniors.

On the Monday after the Texas game, the Blackshirts had their black practice jerseys pulled. Whether there would be players in black the Monday after the Kansas game, "I have no idea," Pippens said.

But Blackshirts or not, "we'll come to work," he said.

Solich took an inordinate amount of criticism following the Texas game, with rumors that his job was in jeopardy spreading across the Internet. He dismissed such criticism at the Tuesday teleconference. "You really don't have to take in any of it," he said. "The pressure you apply to yourself to perform is the only pressure you look at. You cannot live your life feeding off of that and I don't."

"I don't let that bother me. But if someone is in your ear all the time, it is going to wear on you. I do the best I can to look at myself and evaluate my own performance, the performance of the coaches and players. That is my job, and that is what I attempt to do."

The victory against Kansas, on the road besides, should alleviate the pressure for a week. Nebraska is 8-2, on the heels of a 7-7 season, with an opportunity to play for the Big 12 championship. That reflects a remarkable turnaround by just about any standard. Considering where the Cornhuskers were a year ago, people should be optimistic about the future, under the direction of Solich.

While Nebraska was beating Kansas for a 35th consecutive time, Florida State, Miami and Virginia Tech all were losing for the second time this season. Parity is the order of the day in college football, with the notable exception of Oklahoma, which defeated Texas A&M 77-0.

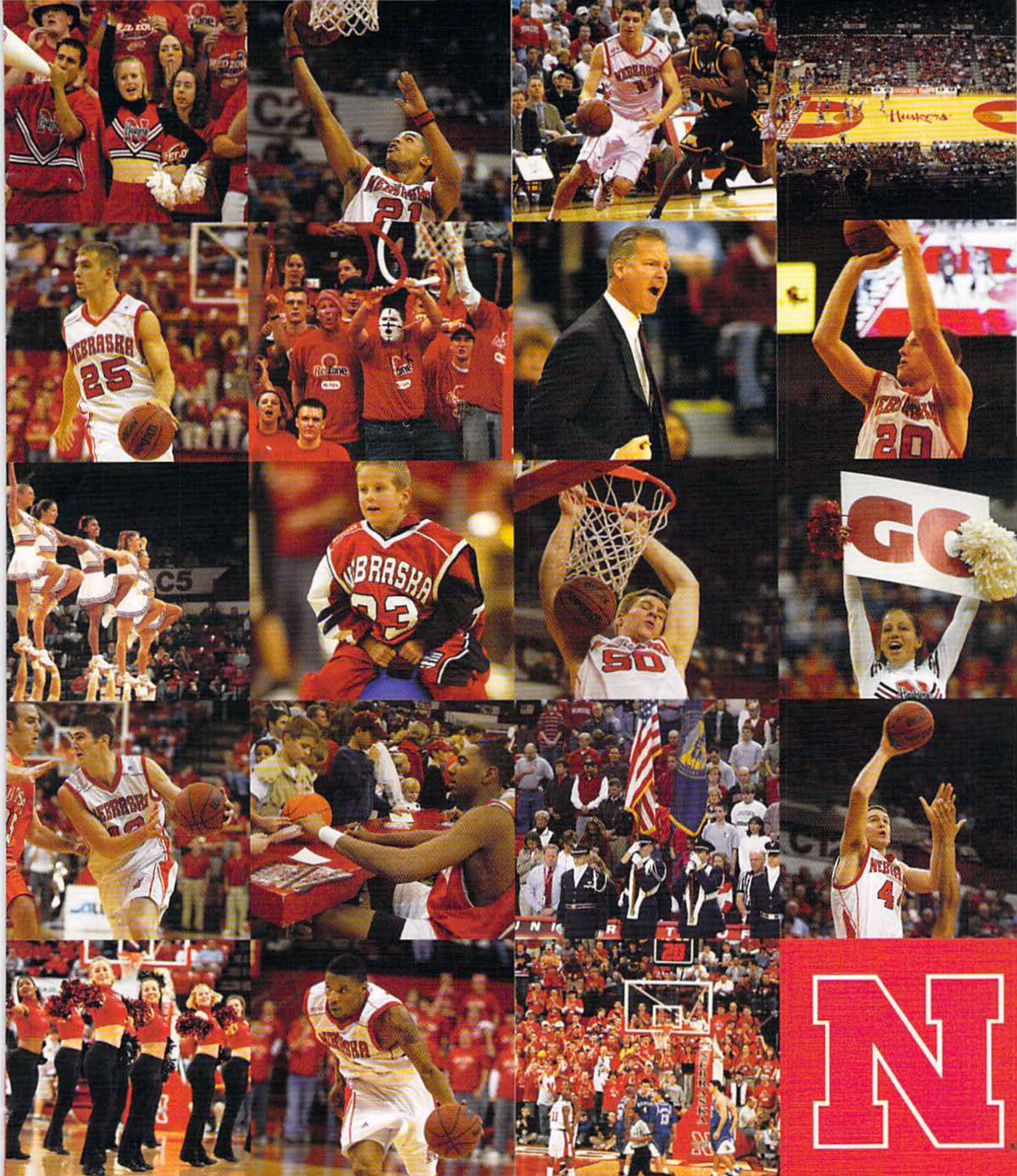
Teams all across the country are facing must-win games, each week.

The Kansas State game will be must-win, for sure. In fact, if the Cornhuskers win that one, they could lose at Colorado and still advance to the Big 12 championship game. But this has been a one-game-at-a-time season if ever there was one.

And now, Kansas State gets Nebraska's undivided attention. ■



Frank Solich says he likes the chemistry of his team.



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